Photo History

From December 2024/January 2025

(Volume 182)

Cover Picture **Great family waiting by Polar Express at Euston...all in pajamas in Dec 2024**

I am writing this on New Year's eve day and as always all the media is full of 'What Happened in 2024' Much of it was very sad and balanced with some great achievements.

I guess my Volumes are more centered on local and family issues without much written about the world. I feel that probably world affairs are already well documented in numerous other readily-available forms but that doesn't mean I have no views on what's going on round us. I feel that life is progressing (if that is the right word, because 'progress' to me anyway, infers going forward in a good way, and that raises issues in my mind).. AI is the buzz word of the past year and I have long ago expressed my fears whilst appreciating its obvious advantages. The trouble is that we are currently unaware of where it will lead us. Much of the work is being done in secret and the main worry is that it will be available to powerful organisations and wealthy individuals where it will be used against the long-term good of the people.

I don't intend to be specific here and I could drill down to illustrate my point but possibly by leaving it open it will enable others to think it through, drawing their own conclusions.

On a very different note I am more and more aware of the great difference in wealth of the population. Individuals with more personal assets than whole countries. Today, for example a small note can illustrate this. I just saw on a local website .. *.Metropolitan Police detectives are appealing to the public for help and information after £10.million worth of jewellery was stolen in a burglary earlier this month, at an Avenue Road home in Camden, the haul included a reported £15,000 in cash ..* The owner is an influencer and art collector Shafira Huang, who had vaunted her collection of priceless jewellery - including a 10.73 carat diamond ring and a diamond and sapphire necklace on Instagram

Just round the corner, still in Camden, there are homeless sleeping rough and **The Camden Routes Off The Streets Team** is commissioned by the London Borough of Camden to end street homelessness & reduce street based anti-social behaviour

Their mantra is to assist:

- People who are rough sleeping.
- Anyone who uses drugs or drinks alcohol on the streets
- People who beg for money
- People involved in street-based sex working

I leave you to draw your own conclusions

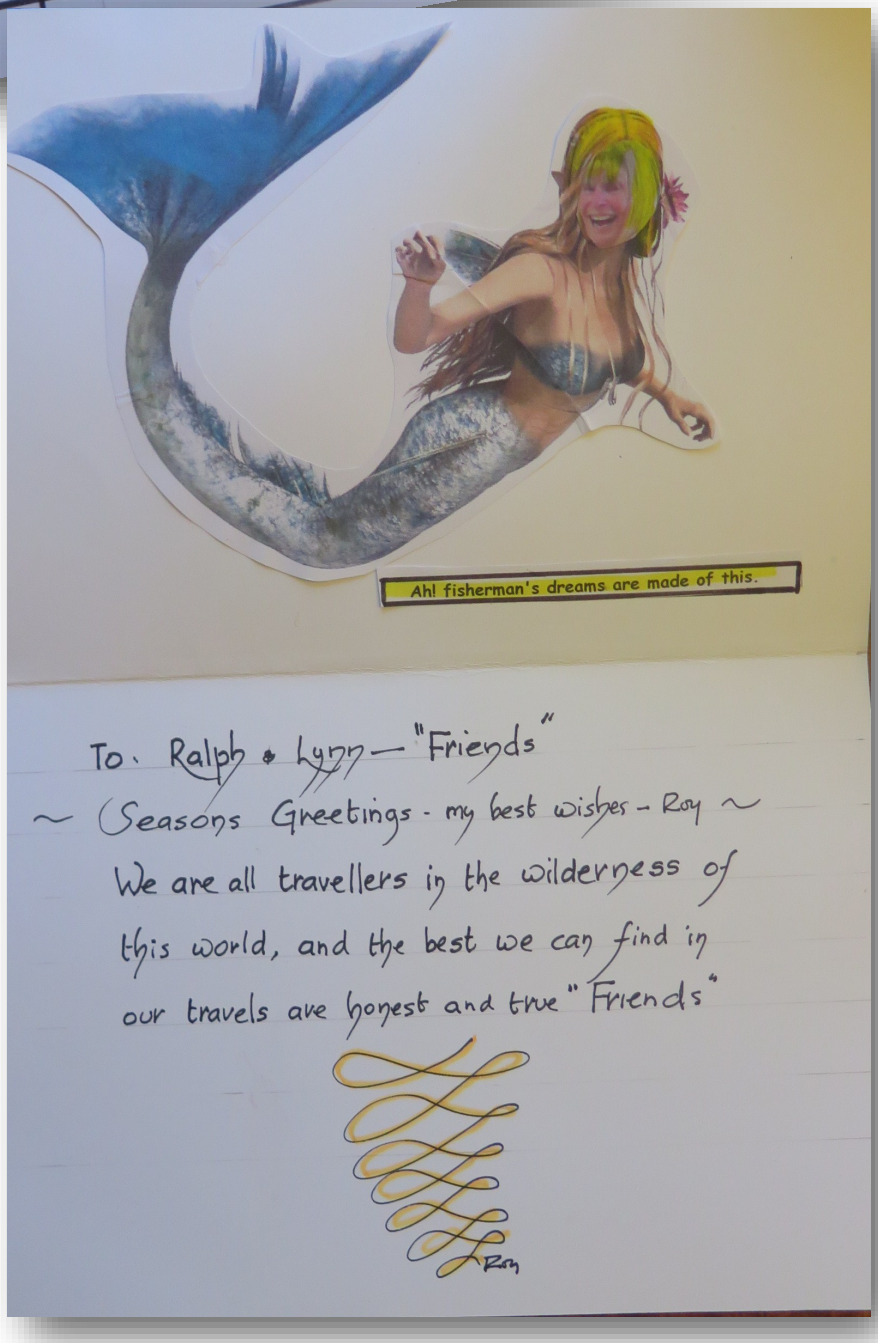
Space seems to already be crowded affording space stations and satellites 'spying' capabilities where detailed images are sent back to governments and individuals which shows us that not only are countries constantly monitored but also devastion caused by climate changes and river damning etc etc can be irrefutably illustrated and the effect not denied.

Wars on many fronts get reported in detail but I feel the bias is very evident in the way it is reported. There are incredible civil wars and famines and drug related violence in so many areas that seem to have less media coverage and this worries me . Are we being manipulated by what we are shown. I feel that false and distorted or , more importantly, non reporting is very prevalent. What worries me is the way in which so many people express views that are certainly not theirs. The general level of ignorance is astounding and we are fed with so much media hype that I feel almost ignorant if I don't know the names of the finalists in 'Strictly' . It shows how easy it is to brainwash the population in a democracy.
I am really upset on a local level where our 'so-called' representatives are councillors and yet blatantly do not represent us. Yes, we are told that we voted for them. We are told there are consultations, we are told that local issues are being dealt with. But, scratch below the surface and one can see the total inefficiencies. When specific short falling is detailed the standard answer is 'lack of funds' . I watched an old film of Southgate and was amazed to see flower beds in full bloom, lovely well-tended parks etc. and compare that to how Southgate is so rapidly degenerating. Cafes with all men who make it unpleasant for women and girls to walk past. Parking anywhere, totally disregarding pedestrians and without punishment. I fact the old police station was refused planning permission yet was illegally advertised and is currently full of renters in substandard accommodation...security guards stop entry for people investigating...unbelievable
This once-attractive shopping area has become very sad and despite everyone being aware of this our council sit s back and allows the influx of shops and cafes that are so obviously fronts for illegal activities and money laundering.

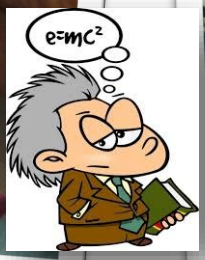
I am not overexcited about the year ahead and possibly this is shown above but if you thought it was going to be all sunshine and roses, I am sorry to disappoint you.
Events may prove me wrong...I really hope so and I will write it in the end of this years volumes " I WAS WRONG"
I really hope this is the case...Anyway BIG SMILEs to you all

A totally wonderful card drawn by Roy and given to Lynn and myself at Xmas '24...A real talent from such a great guy.

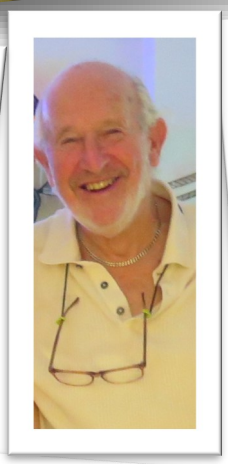
He calls us 'friends' and that is the nic-est compliment

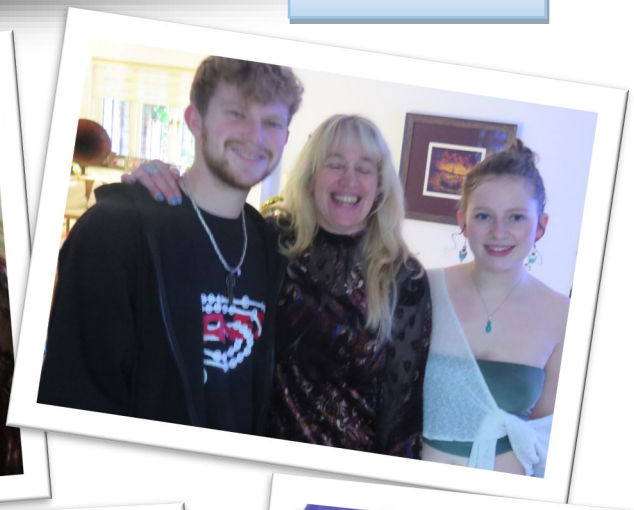


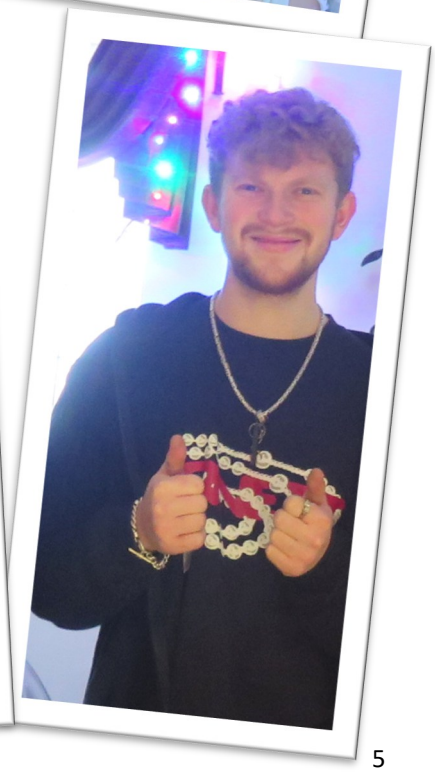
Once a month Bob, Roy, Michael and myself meet at one another's houses. We chat and scoff food and (with luck) even manage to squeeze in a fun quiz. It is a really great social time and we all enjoy it for what it is...MMOM…(a Mensa Meeting Of Minds)

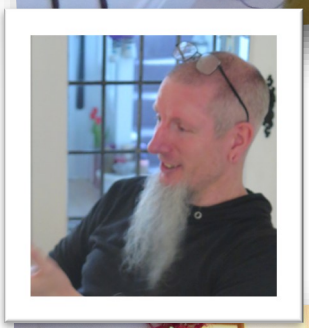


Christmas 2024

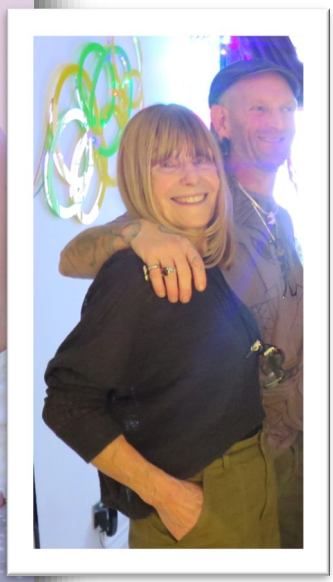






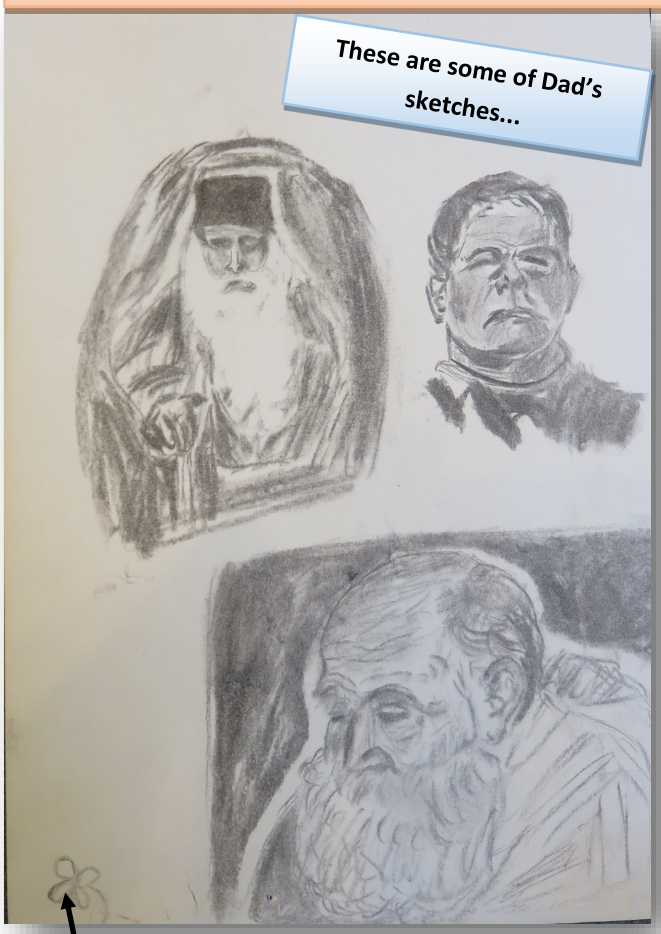


Beau talking to Otterlie



There now follows a random selection of 'stuff' I unearthed interspersed with current photos...you have been warned

Maybe it's an 'end of year' thing. I ensconced myself upstairs determined to rid our cupboards of accumulated reams of wonderful, fascinating memorabilia. (Most people would call it "a load of old junk") Anyway, equipped with a black sack and after several hours all I had achieved was a still-empty black sack but having enjoyed a totally fun time during which I photographed much of these fun and historic items and determined to be more ruthless in future. (I will now include these in this book and let you decide, on a scale of 1-10, how boring they actually are.) The wide variety amazes even me...

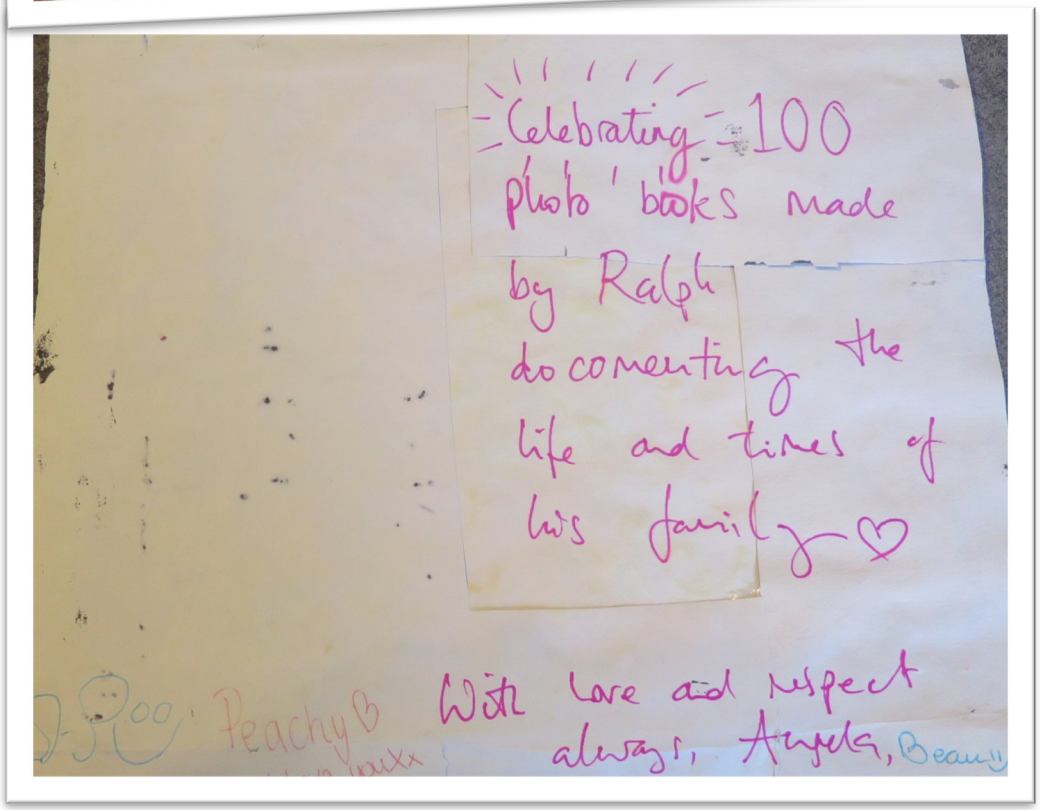


These are some of Dad's sketches...

'Kleeblatt' in German means four-leafed clover...and this is how Dad-signed his work

A sketch for Dad on his retirement/ birthday . It came from a fellow friend and artist

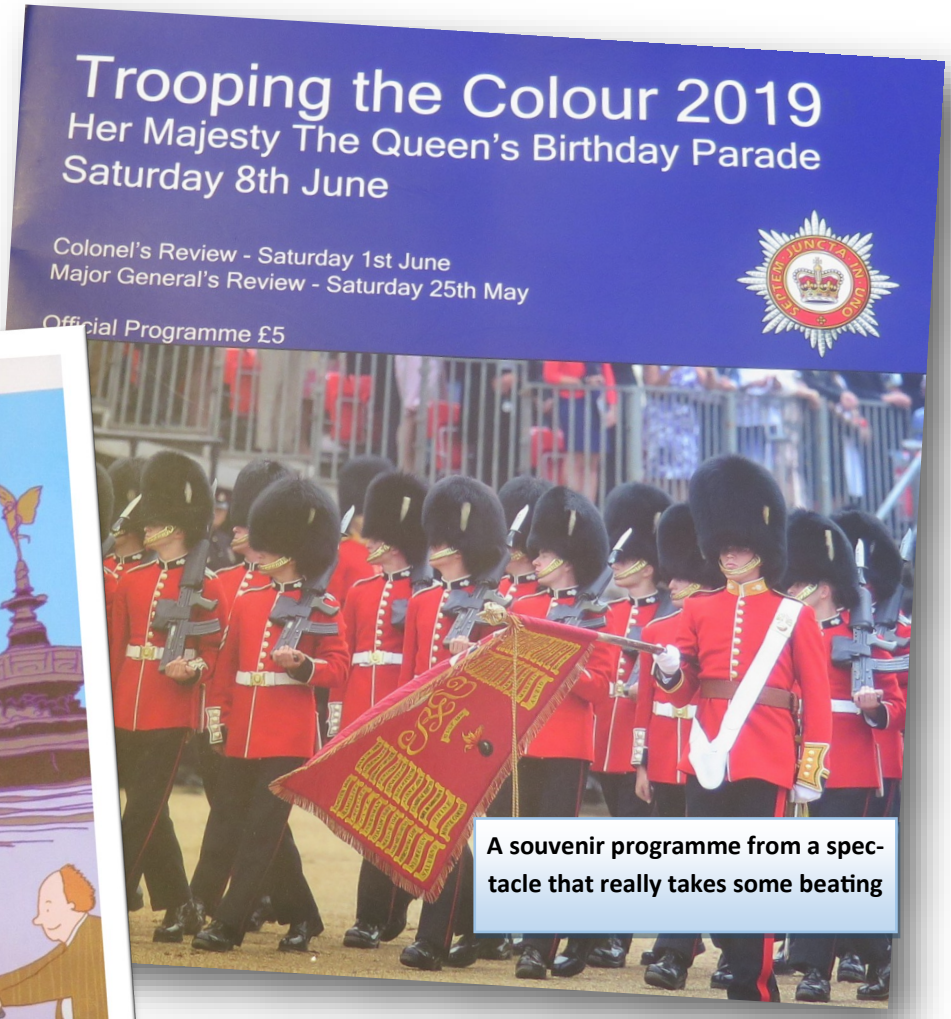
Halfpenny stamps...wow!



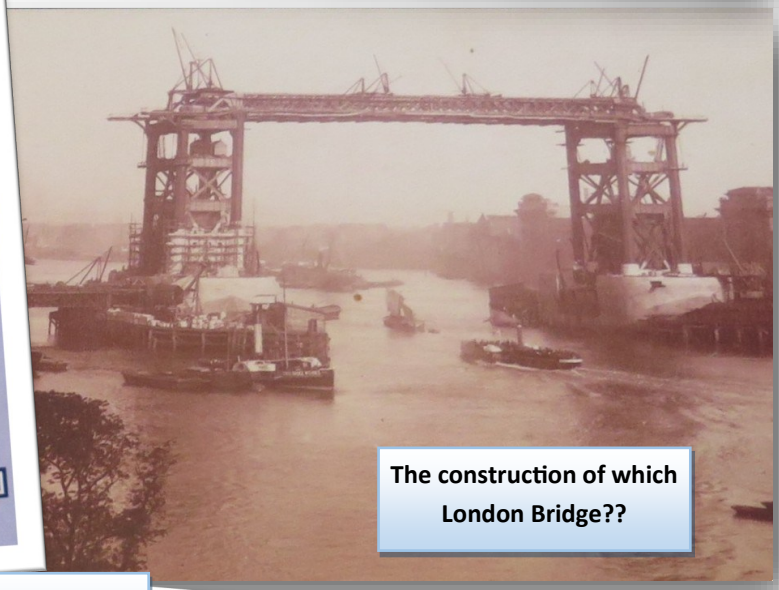
This delightful card/ page was created by Angela, Peachy and Beau for the 100th volume of these Photo Histories

Photo History

I think this was the first of the bicycle hire schemes in London



A souvenir programme from a spectacle that really takes some beating



The construction of which London Bridge??

Everyone wore these visors on the Royal wedding route

What an original slant on life...

My Next Life
by Woody Allen

I love it!

In my next life I want to live backwards.
You start out dead and get that out of the way.

Then you wake up in an old people's home
feeling better every day.

You get kicked out for being too healthy,
go collect your pension, and then when
you start work, you get a gold watch
and a party on your first day.

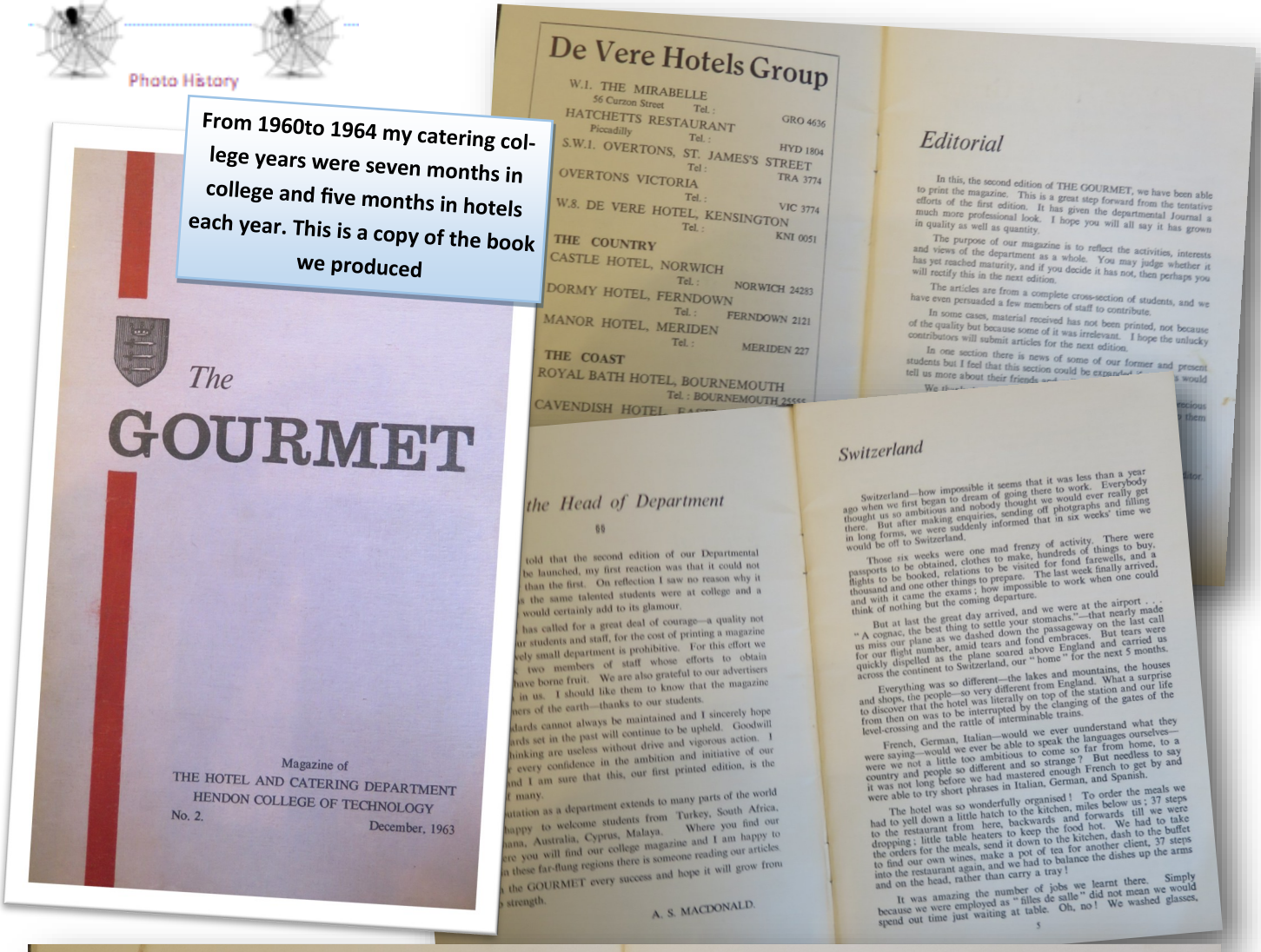
You work for 40 years until you're young
enough to enjoy your retirement.

You party, drink alcohol, and are
generally promiscuous, then you
are ready for high school.

You then go to primary school,
you become a kid, you play.
You have no responsibilities,
you become a baby until you
are born. And then you spend
your last 9 months floating in
luxurious spa like conditions with
central heating and room service
on tap, larger quarters every day
and then, Voila!
You finish off as an orgasm!

I rest my case.

From 1960to 1964 my catering college years were seven months in college and five months in hotels each year. This is a copy of the book we produced



The GOURMET

Magazine of
THE HOTEL AND CATERING DEPARTMENT
HENDON COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
No. 2.
December, 1963

De Vere Hotels Group

W.1. THE MIRABELLE
56 Curzon Street Tel.: GRO 4636
HATCHETTS RESTAURANT
Piccadilly Tel.: HYD 1804
S.W.1. OVERTONS, ST. JAMES'S STREET
Tel: TRA 3774
OVERTONS VICTORIA
Tel.: VIC 3774
W.8. DE VERE HOTEL, KENSINGTON
Tel.: KNI 0051
THE COUNTRY
CASTLE HOTEL, NORWICH
Tel.: NORWICH 24283
DORMY HOTEL, FERNDOWN
Tel.: FERNDOWN 2121
MANOR HOTEL, MERIDEN
Tel.: MERIDEN 227
THE COAST
ROYAL BATH HOTEL, BOURNEMOUTH
Tel.: BOURNEMOUTH 25555
CAVENDISH HOTEL

Editorial

In this, the second edition of THE GOURMET, we have been able to print the magazine. This is a great step forward from the tentative efforts of the first edition. It has given the departmental Journal a much more professional look. I hope you will all say it has grown in quality as well as quantity.

The purpose of our magazine is to reflect the activities, interests and views of the department as a whole. You may judge whether it has yet reached maturity, and if you decide it has not, then perhaps you will rectify this in the next edition.

The articles are from a complete cross-section of students, and we have even persuaded a few members of staff to contribute.

In some cases, material received has not been printed, not because of the quality but because some of it was irrelevant. I hope the unlucky contributors will submit articles for the next edition.

In one section there is news of some of our former and present students but I feel that this section could be expanded ... would tell us more about their friends and ...

the Head of Department

told that the second edition of our Departmental be launched, my first reaction was that it could not than the first. On reflection I saw no reason why it is the same talented students were at college and a would certainly add to its glamour.

has called for a great deal of courage—a quality not ur students and staff, for the cost of printing a magazine ely small department is prohibitive. For this effort we two members of staff whose efforts to obtain have borne fruit. We are also grateful to our advertisers in us. I should like them to know that the magazine bers of the earth—thanks to our students.

dards cannot always be maintained and I sincerely hope ards set in the past will continue to be upheld. Goodwill hinking are useless without drive and vigorous action. I every confidence in the ambition and initiative of our nd I am sure that this, our first printed edition, is the f many.

utation as a department extends to many parts of the world happy to welcome students from Turkey, South Africa, hana, Australia, Cyprus, Malaya. Where you find our ere you will find our college magazine and I am happy to n these far-flung regions there is someone reading our articles the GOURMET every success and hope it will grow from strength.

A. S. MACDONALD.

Switzerland

Switzerland—how impossible it seems that it was less than a year ago when we first began to dream of going there to work. Everybody thought us so ambitious and nobody thought we would ever really get there. But after making enquiries, sending off photgraphs and filling in long forms, we were suddenly informed that in six weeks' time we would be off to Switzerland.

Those six weeks were one mad frenzy of activity. There were passports to be obtained, clothes to make, hundreds of things to buy, flights to be booked, relations to be visited for fond farewells, and a thousand and one other things to prepare. The last week finally arrived, and with it came the exams; how impossible to work when one could think of nothing but the coming departure.

But at last the great day arrived, and we were at the airport . . . "A cognac, the best thing to settle your stomachs."—that nearly made us miss our plane as we dashed down the passageway on the last call for our flight number, amid tears and fond embraces. But tears were quickly dispelled as the plane soared above England and carried us across the continent to Switzerland, our "home" for the next 5 months.

Everything was so different—the lakes and mountains, the houses and shops, the people—so very different from England. What a surprise to discover that the hotel was literally on top of the station and our life from then on was to be interrupted by the clanging of the gates of the level-crossing and the rattle of interminable trains.

French, German, Italian—would we ever understand what they were saying—would we ever be able to speak the languages ourselves—were we not a little too ambitious to come so far from home, to a country and people so different and so strange? But needless to say it was not long before we had mastered enough French to get by and were able to try short phrases in Italian, German, and Spanish.

The hotel was so wonderfully organised! To order the meals we had to yell down a little hatch to the kitchen, miles below us; 37 steps to the restaurant from here, backwards and forwards till we were dropping; little table heaters to keep the food hot. We had to take the orders for the meals, send it down to the kitchen, dash to the buffet to find our own wines, make a pot of tea for another client, 37 steps into the restaurant again, and we had to balance the dishes up the arms and on the head, rather than carry a tray!

It was amazing the number of jobs we learnt there. Simply because we were employed as "filles de salle" did not mean we would spend out time just waiting at table. Oh, no! We washed glasses,

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Around and About

We are delighted to learn that Mr. Douglas Oram has been appointed to the post of Assistant Banqueting Manager at the Dorchester. Formerly with the Metropolitan Hotels Ltd., Mr. Oram has worked in a famous Paris hotel. He informs us that he is enjoying his new post.

Mr. Peter Weston is pleased to say that he "overlooks" his former class colleague Mr. Oram, as he is on the staff of the London Hilton, but for all that they bear no malice towards each other.

Mr. Stephen Ayres is now Reception Manager at Flemings.

The Metropolitan Hotels seem to have made a "take-over bid" ... students of the College. The department ... wonder—all the girls

Mr. Edward Davies, Dip. III has certainly raised the banner for the Catering and Hotel Management Department of this College. It is he who organises much of the catering for the social functions of the London-Welsh Society. We hear he is highly esteemed in these circles and in consequence we hope that the Principal is impressed.

Two of the fourth year National Diploma students, Mr. Arnold Balbirer and Mr. Ralph Kley are doing their final stint of practical work in Claridges and the Savoy respectively. We had hoped to see them on television but they were conspicuous by their absence. Mr. Ian Wright is doing well at the Connaught Rooms; Mr. Tony Watson is enjoying his practical work at the Charing Cross Hotel.

Miss Kathleen Ralph and Miss Veronica Astle from Dip. IV have been doing so well as assistants in the Housekeeping Department of Grosvenor House and Charing Cross hotels that the management are very keen to keep them. What greater compliment can be paid them?

Diploma students are certainly getting around for their practical experience. They were scattered as far afield this year as Scotland, Switzerland and Germany and we feel sure they were a credit to us. This year, one of our students, Mr. Stuart Rose is going for his practical experience to Los Angeles. Is this a record. We fear not—some Ealing ... Rose is going for his practical ... t—some Ealing ... t probably feels ... ly, our Head of ... he U.S.A. You ... s and wonder if ... hen on leave they ... ess, bringing with ... s to their favourite ... o get a present of ... r how she disposed ... the Law School in ... been in the U.S.A. ... in a Nigerian hotel. ... London hotels will ... d to Nat. Dip. IIa's ... idents did they have? ... are anxious to know ... awkins, a student who ... ission in the Catering ... or John Gardiner, the ... ssion throughout Great

practical ability and command ...

18

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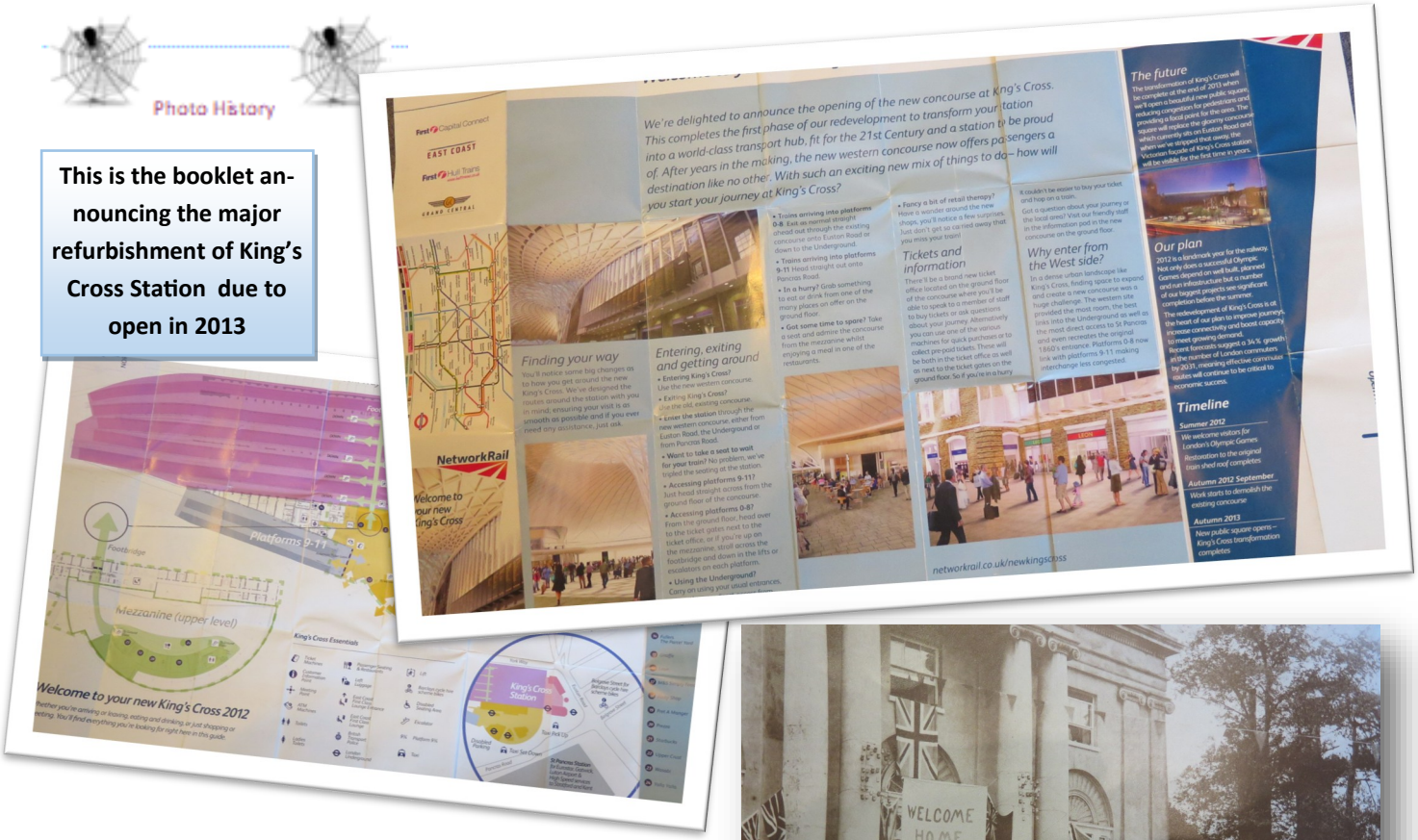
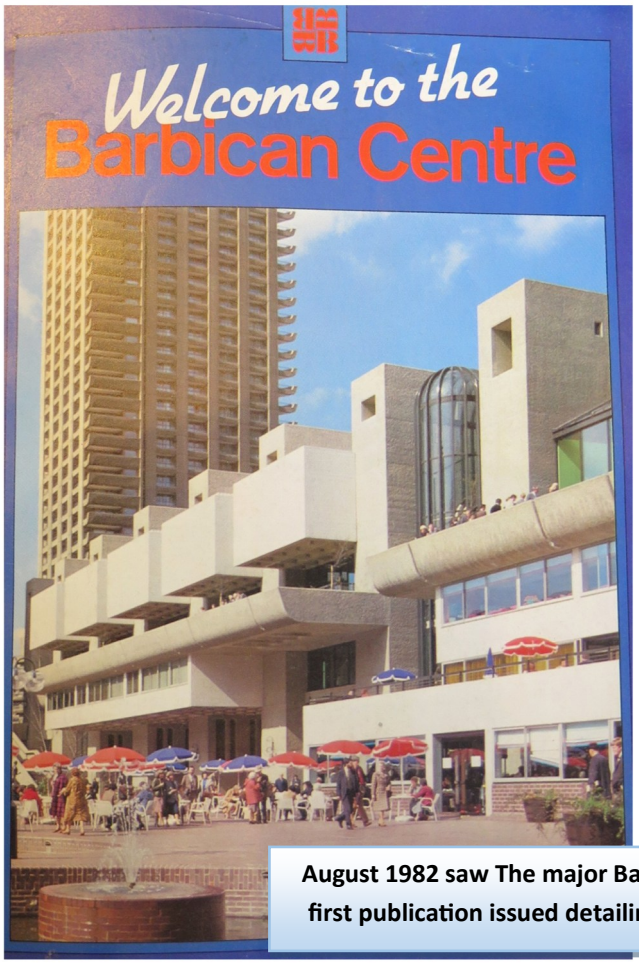
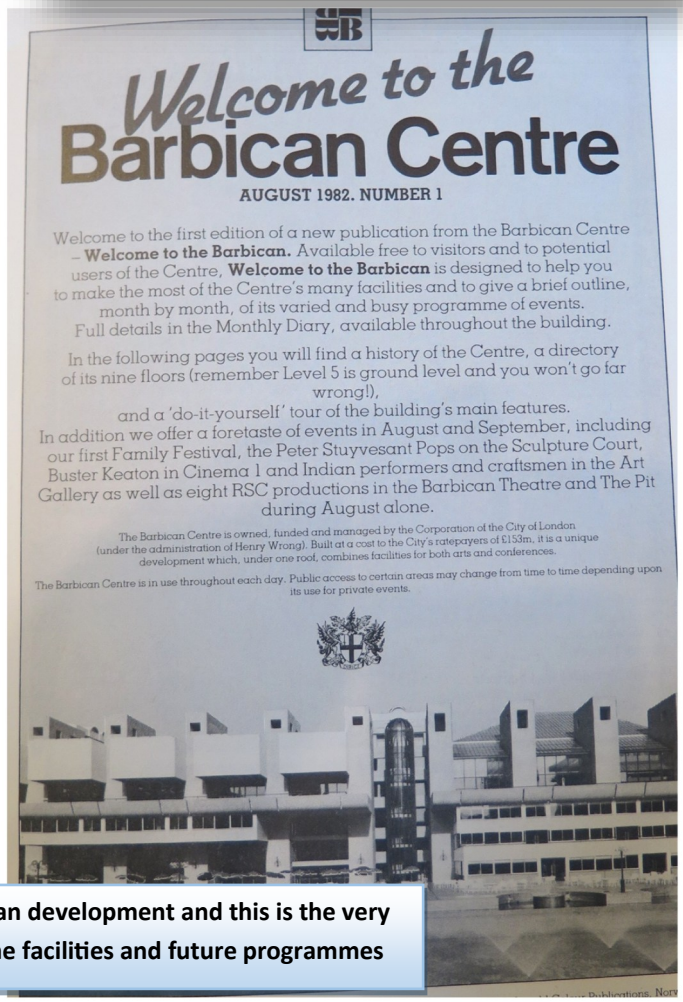
This is the booklet announcing the major refurbishment of King's Cross Station due to open in 2013



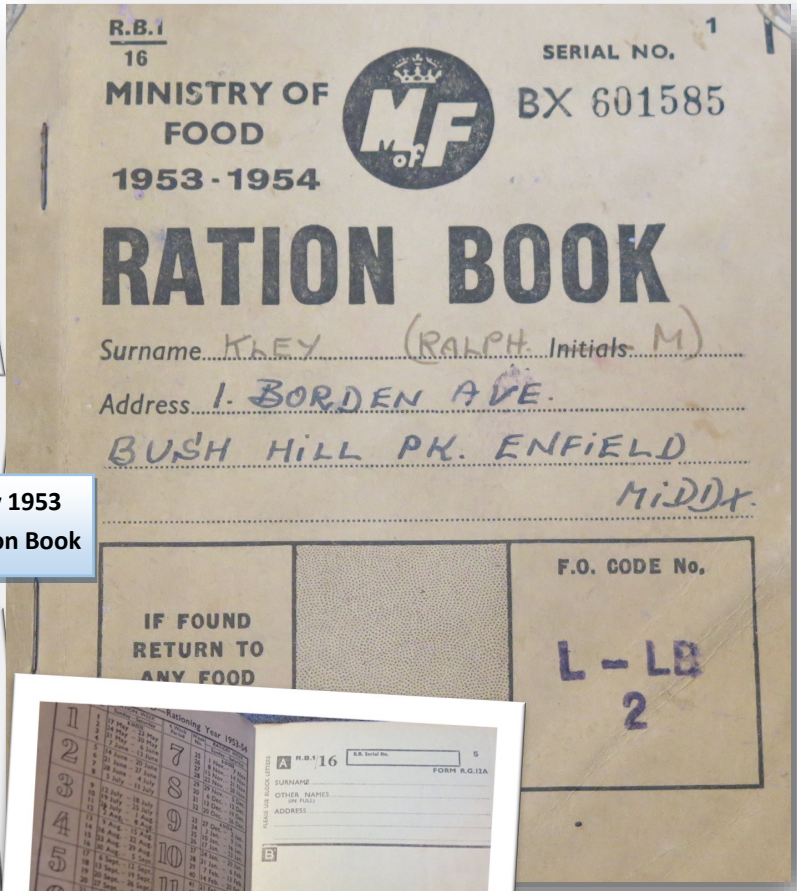
Mr and Mrs Taylor arriving back from their honeymoon and being welcomed by their staff at Groveland's (opposite our house) in 1903

A very different world

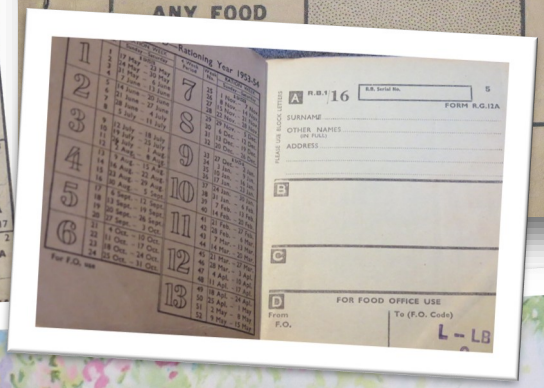




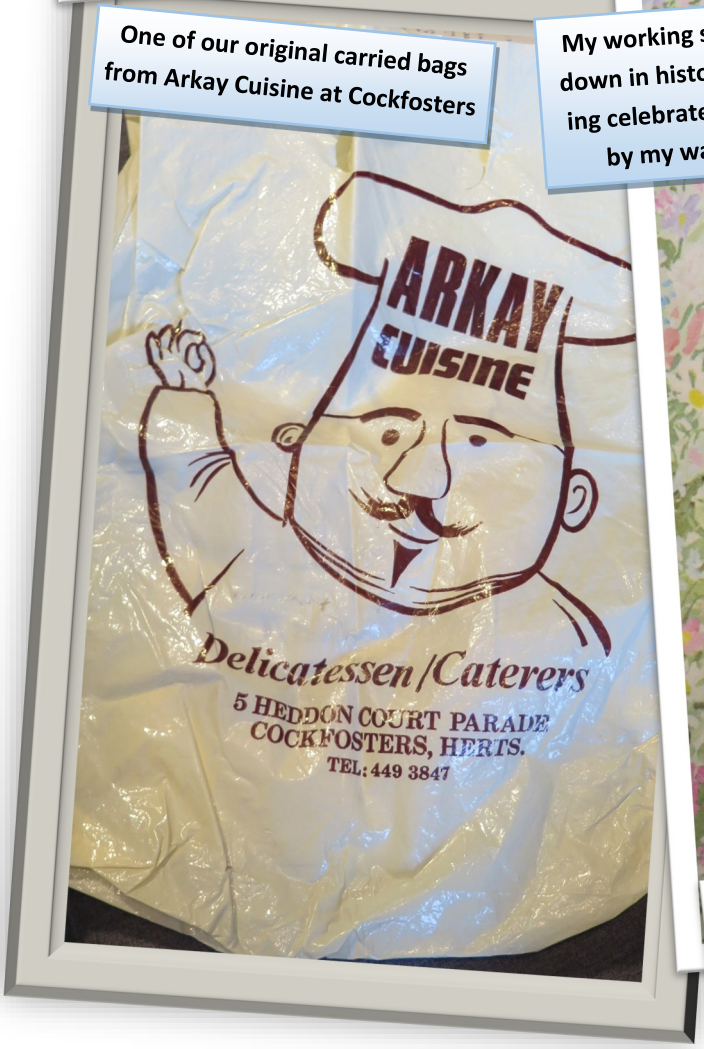
August 1982 saw The major Barbican development and this is the very first publication issued detailing the facilities and future programmes



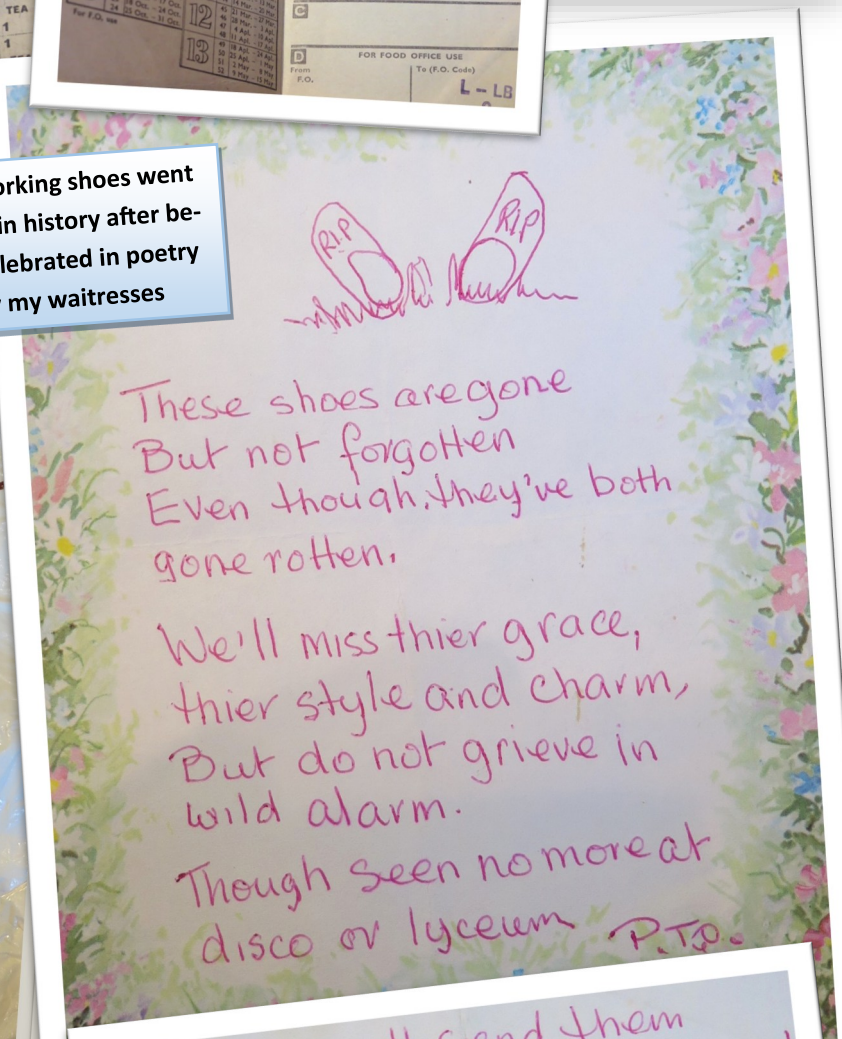
My 1953 Ration Book



One of our original carried bags from Arkay Cuisine at Cockfosters



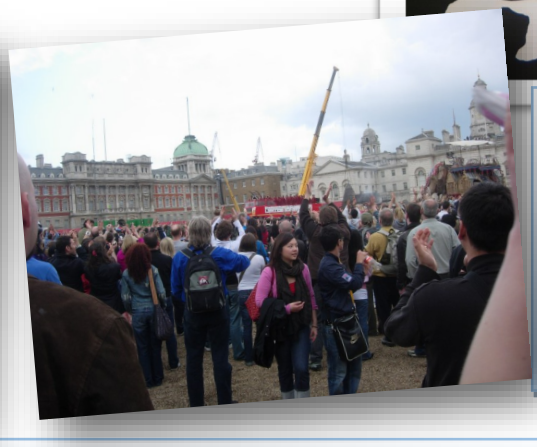
My working shoes went down in history after being celebrated in poetry by my waitresses



I think we'll send them to the BRITISH MUSEUM!

The Sultan's Elephant show was performed in London from 4 to 7 May 2006. The show started with a rocket "crashing" in Waterloo Place on Thursday May 4, smashing up the tarmac with smoke coming out from the bottom. On Friday the elephant arrived along with the Sultan. An oversize marionette emerged from the rocket: this was the girl from the Sultan's dreams. The girl met the elephant. On the Friday evening the elephant wandered around St James's while the girl went on a journey around London on an opentop bus.
On the Saturday the elephant walked to Trafalgar Square, where it rested during lunchtime. Then the girl marionette was lifted by a crane onto the elephant's trunk and was carried in a Grand Parade back to Horseguards Parade while the Sultan appeared with a troop of dancers on top of the elephant. We heard eerie music floating across and went to investigate . It was spectacular and totally imaginative

The girl had a needle and thread, and the things she sewed included a series of cars that were "sewn" to the tarmac.



On the Sunday the show finished with a Grand Finale in which the girl climbed into the rocket, which then 'took off'. This involved the rocket firing, with smoke and flames coming out of the bottom.

When the top was removed from the rocket by a crane the girl had disappeared. She had travelled in time.

While they were in London the elephant and the girl were stored in Battersea Power Station and they were transported with a police escort to the various sites in the early hours of each morning. Many lampposts and traffic lights were removed to allow the elephant through. Between the performance days both the elephant and the girl were left "sleeping" at Horseguards Parade. After each performance the elephant was once again transported in the early hours of the morning back to Battersea Power Station. The return journeys took longer than expected as some of the street furniture had been put back in place too early.

The event, the biggest piece of free theatre ever staged in London, attracted audiences of up to a million people.. It was brought to England by the production company Artichoke which was also responsible for bringing the giant mechanical spider La Princesse to Liverpool in September 2008.

Dear Mick,

This letter will probably make you
ate me because I am going to say
exactly how I feel.

Tonight during the prayer
meeting I kept thinking of you so I
de an excuse of bringing the book back
see you. But I wish I hadn't,
cause just sitting there near
rgie made me want to yell at
to leave you alone and that you
re really mine. I could have easily
t but I felt I wanted to stay
that Margie could not be
ne with you, I didn't think you'd
d But I'm not so sure now.

think I'm so jealous of Margie I
just don't know what to do,
everytime I see her I want to tell
her that it is me you really love
even though it may not be true
but I can't keep myself away
from her, I want to spy on her
all the time, I don't want her
to be alone with you

Honestly Mick I shall go mad
soon and tell her if something
doesn't happen between you

Margie told me you had a
fust up but made it up. Why
Mick why did you make it up.
It would have been a wonderful
opportunity to pack her up but
m to want to

I reckon you enjoy having
two girls at your beck and call,
yes Mick it may be nice for
you but not for the girls
especially the one who knows about
the other.

I expect you think I am a
jealous, selfish, selfpitying girl,
maybe I am but at least I
have a reason.

If you don't meet me
Wed. at 8.45 then I know that
you really don't love me but
enjoy having two faithful
admirers. If you really do love
me then this letter will make
no difference

Here's hoping I see ya
Wed 8.45.

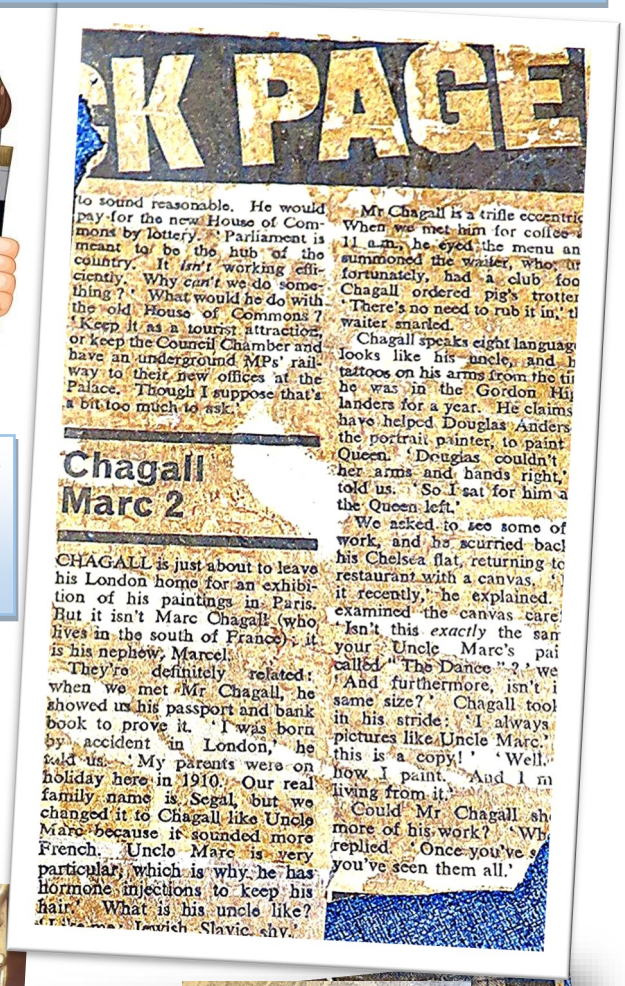
I love you. See Ya. Anne x x x

I guess young love is the most lasting emotion and one should always remember that. It forms the way in which we maintain relationships into old age and one often wonders what if etc etc??

...are my old love letters hidden in a box somewhere ? Who knows…

In the swinging 60's I ran Kenco in The King's Road, Chelsea which was the 'go-to ' place for all the trendy folk of the time. It was always mad busy but great fun. One of the regulars was an artist, always sporting the requisite artists brushes in his top pocket. Unable to pay for his meal one day we agreed he should pay for this by painting Lynn (from the photo provided) and the result still hangs in our hall at home. When The Observer interviewed him where he admitted he was Chagall…..*sadly, he was Marc Chagall's nephew rather than the master himself* . However we can honestly say we have a Chagal hanging in our hall

Gorgeous then and gorgeous now…



K PAGE

to sound reasonable. He would pay for the new House of Commons by lottery. 'Parliament is meant to be the hub of the country. It *isn't* working efficiently. Why *can't* we do something?' What would he do with the old House of Commons? 'Keep it as a tourist attraction, or keep the Council Chamber and have an underground MPs' railway to their new offices at the Palace. Though I suppose that's a bit too much to ask.'

Chagall Marc 2

CHAGALL is just about to leave his London home for an exhibition of his paintings in Paris. But it isn't Marc Chagall (who lives in the south of France); it is his nephew, Marcel.

They're definitely related: when we met Mr Chagall, he showed us his passport and bank book to prove it. 'I was born by accident in London,' he told us. 'My parents were on holiday here in 1910. Our real family name is Segal, but we changed it to Chagall like Uncle Marc because it sounded more French. Uncle Marc is very particular, which is why he has hormone injections to keep his hair.' What is his uncle like? 'Very [illegible] Jewish-Slavic, shy.'

Mr Chagall is a trifle eccentric. When we met him for coffee at 11 a.m., he eyed the menu and summoned the waiter, who, unfortunately, had a club foot. Chagall ordered pig's trotters. 'There's no need to rub it in,' the waiter snarled.

Chagall speaks eight languages. looks like his uncle, and has tattoos on his arms from the time he was in the Gordon Highlanders for a year. He claims to have helped Douglas Anders, the portrait painter, to paint the Queen. 'Douglas couldn't get her arms and hands right,' he told us. 'So I sat for him and the Queen left.'

We asked to see some of his work, and he scurried back to his Chelsea flat, returning to the restaurant with a canvas. 'I painted it recently,' he explained. We examined the canvas carefully. 'Isn't this *exactly* the same as your Uncle Marc's painting called "The Dance"?' we asked. 'And furthermore, isn't it the same size?' Chagall took it in his stride: 'I always copy pictures like Uncle Marc.' 'But this is a copy!' 'Well, that's how I paint. And I make a living from it.'

Could Mr Chagall show us more of his work? 'Why not?' he replied. 'Once you've seen one, you've seen them all.'

Having trained as cocktail barman at the Savoy in 1963 we decided to see in the Millenium there with friends so we made reservation around 1995. However around 1998 we heard from The Savoy that they were doing a pre-booking raffle and we had to be prepared for a lengthy wait for confirmation without knowing either the cost or even if we had been successful. This price list arrived later and we were quite happy that we had decided to take a bottle of bubbly and a flask of soup and watch the fantastic fireworks amongst thousands of others on the side of The Thames. It was a memorable night...and possibly a bit cheaper too

TWO THOUSAND REASONS
FOR A SINGULAR CELEBRATION
31ST DECEMBER 1999,
1ST JANUARY 2000 AT THE SAVOY

Two tickets for The Savoy Millennium Party
with two nights' accommodation in a one bedroom River view suite

Couples at £10,250.00 £

SAVOY
MILLENNIUM PARTY BOOKING FORM

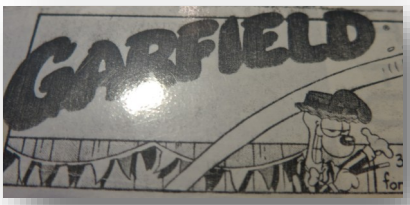
Please return completed form to:
The Millennium Co-ordinator
The Savoy, Strand, London,WC2R OEU
Tel 0171 420 2669, Fax 0171 420 2450

I wish to enter my party of _____ guests into the ballot to be held on 14 February 1999, for which I enclose a *cheque/credit card details for £250.00. The payment of £250.00 will be refunded, should my entry not win the required tickets for seats in the ballot.

Please indicate which package you will require.

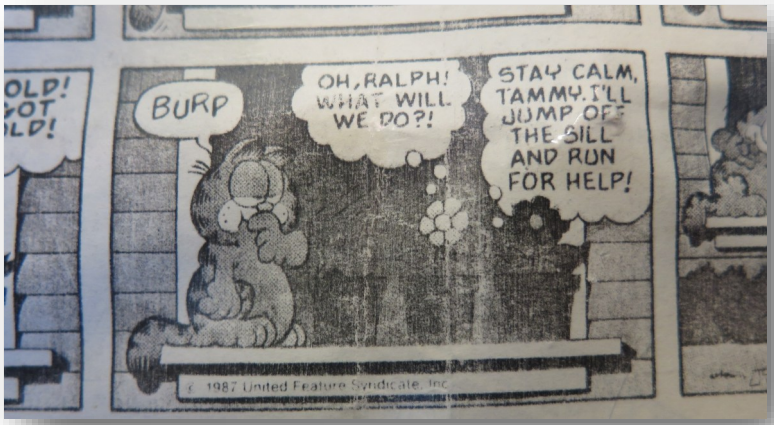
Two tickets for The Savoy Millennium Party with two nights' accommodation in a superior double room.	(No.)	Couples at £7,300.00	£
Two tickets for The Savoy Millennium Party with two nights' accommodation in a de luxe double room.	(No.)	Couples at £7,600.00	£
Four tickets for The Savoy Millennium Party with two nights' accommodation in a family room*.	(No.)	Families at £14,000.00	£
Two tickets for The Savoy Millennium Party with two nights' accommodation in a one bedroom Courtside suite.	(No.)	Couples at £8,350.00	£
Two tickets for The Savoy Millennium Party with two nights' accommodation in a de luxe one bedroom Courtside suite.	(No.)	Couples at £9,000.00	£
Two tickets for The Savoy Millennium Party with two nights' accommodation in a River view junior suite**.	(No.)	Couples at £8,000.00	£
Two tickets for The Savoy Millennium Party with two nights' accommodation in a one bedroom River view suite.	(No.)	Couples at £10,250.00	£

** Comprises two double bedrooms sharing one bathroom. ** Comprises one spacious bedroom which includes a sitting area.*

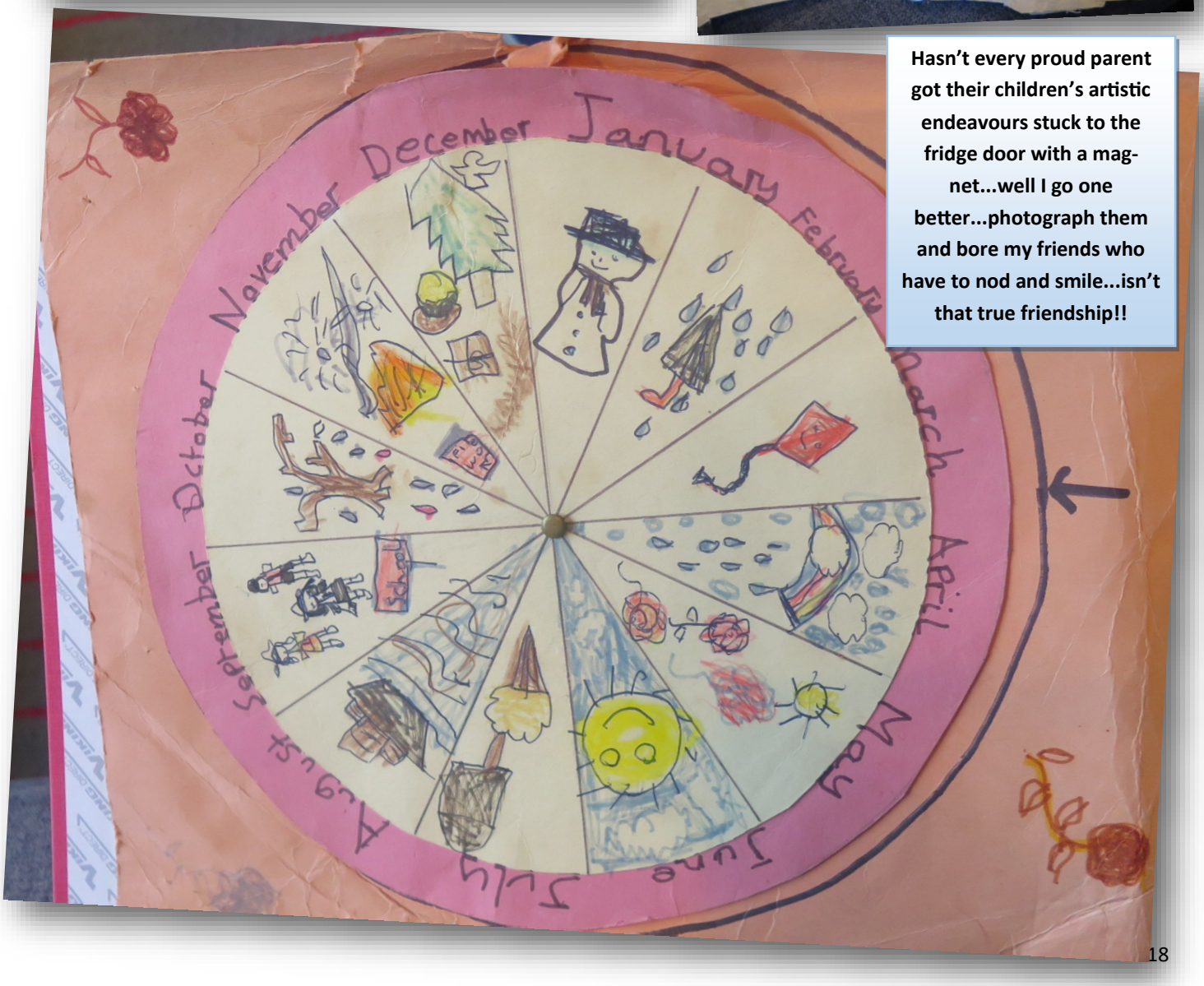


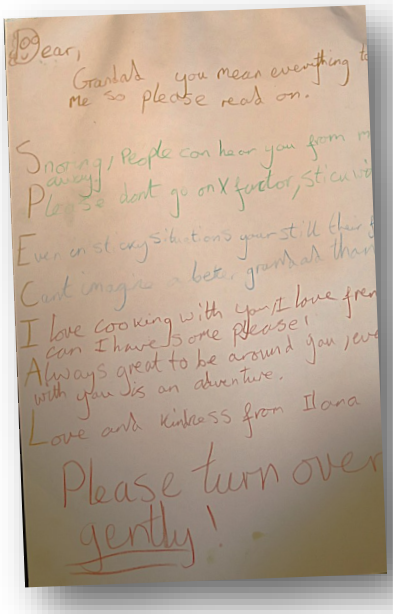
Garfield named the two flowers on the windowsill 'Tamara and Ralph'

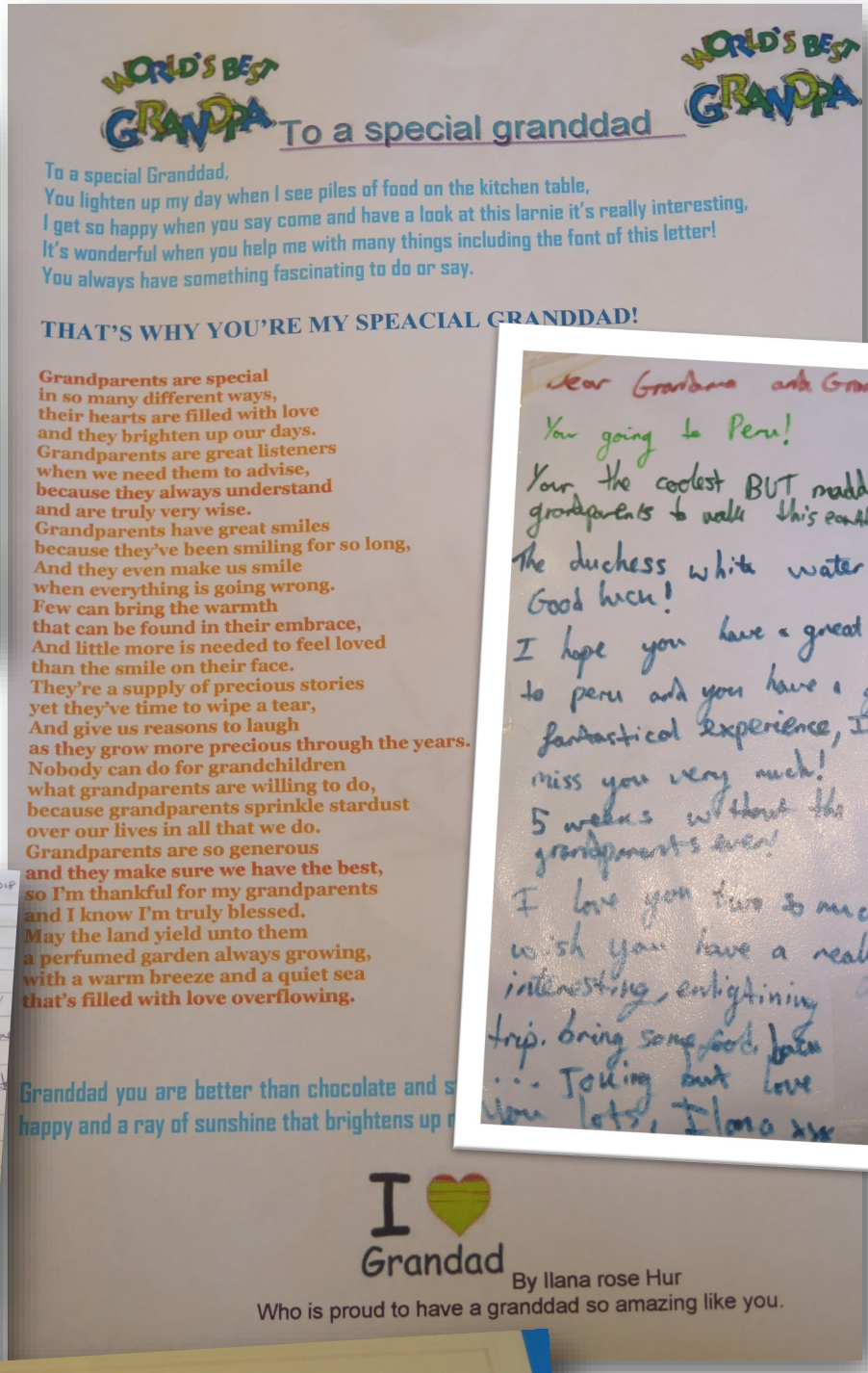
What a coincidence...named after frozen pot plants



Hasn't every proud parent got their children's artistic endeavours stuck to the fridge door with a magnet...well I go one better...photograph them and bore my friends who have to nod and smile...isn't that true friendship!!




Dear,
Grandad you mean everything to me so please read on.
Snoring, People can hear you from m
Please dont go on X factor, Stick
Even in sticky situations your still ther
Cant imagine a better grandad than
I love cooking with you I love fren
can I have some please!
Always great to be around you, eve
with you is an adventure.
Love and kinkness from Ilana
Please turn over gently!


WORLD'S BEST GRANDPA
To a special granddad
WORLD'S BEST GRANDPA

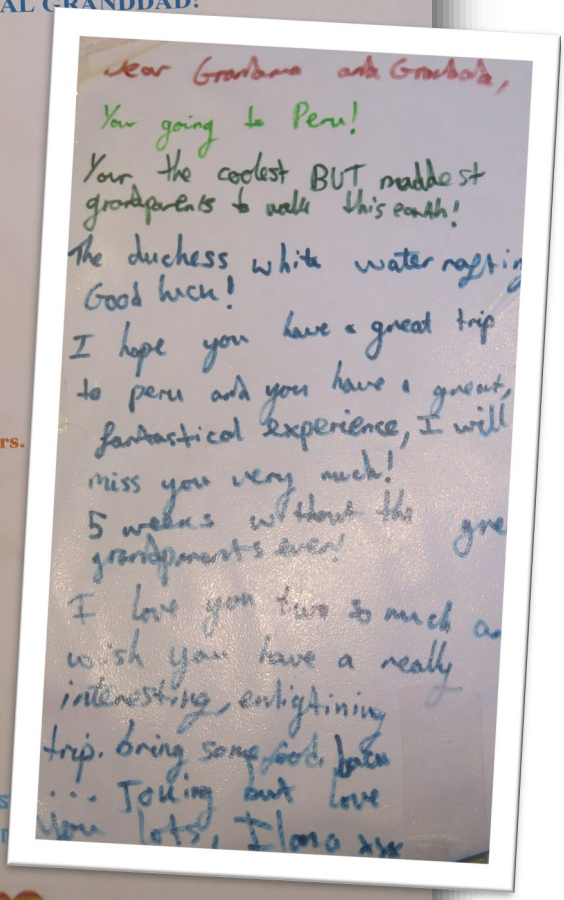
To a special Granddad,
You lighten up my day when I see piles of food on the kitchen table,
I get so happy when you say come and have a look at this larnie it's really interesting,
It's wonderful when you help me with many things including the font of this letter!
You always have something fascinating to do or say.

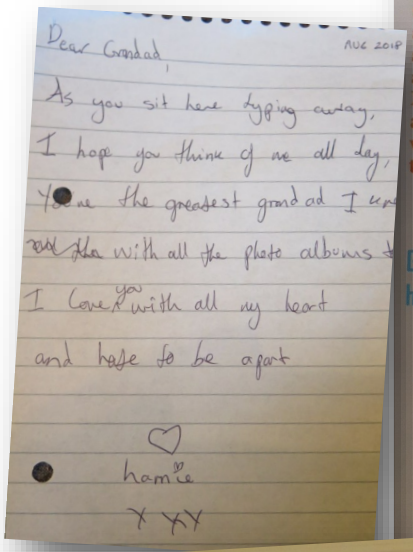
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE MY SPEACIAL GRANDDAD!

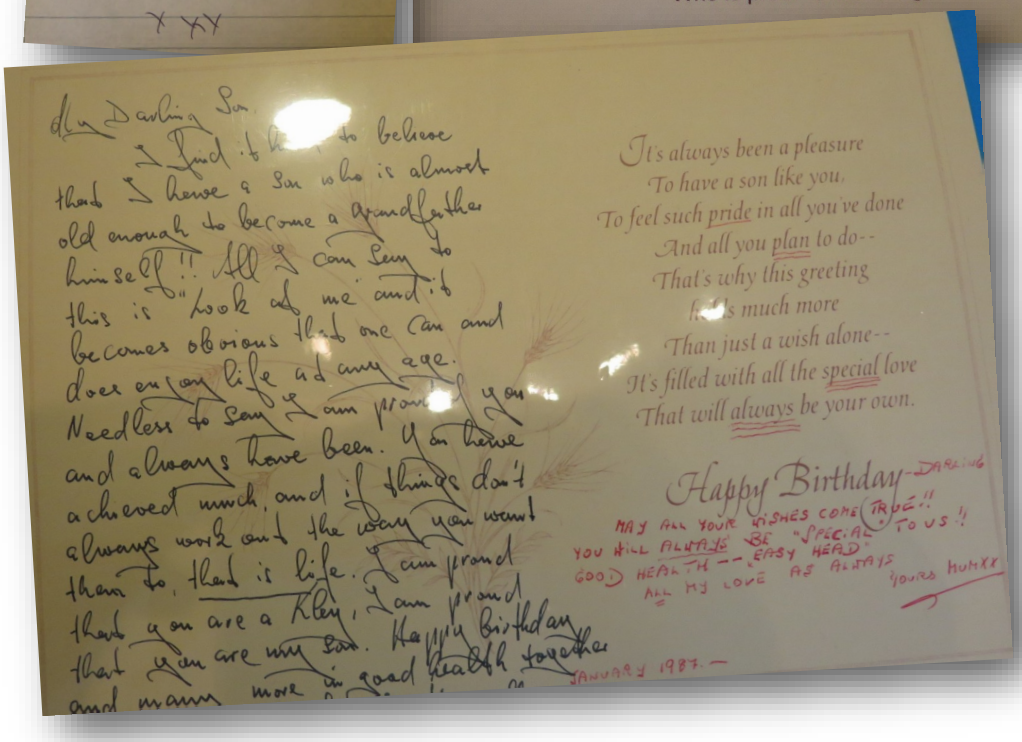
Grandparents are special
in so many different ways,
their hearts are filled with love
and they brighten up our days.
Grandparents are great listeners
when we need them to advise,
because they always understand
and are truly very wise.
Grandparents have great smiles
because they've been smiling for so long,
And they even make us smile
when everything is going wrong.
Few can bring the warmth
that can be found in their embrace,
And little more is needed to feel loved
than the smile on their face.
They're a supply of precious stories
yet they've time to wipe a tear,
And give us reasons to laugh
as they grow more precious through the years.
Nobody can do for grandchildren
what grandparents are willing to do,
because grandparents sprinkle stardust
over our lives in all that we do.
Grandparents are so generous
and they make sure we have the best,
so I'm thankful for my grandparents
and I know I'm truly blessed.
May the land yield unto them
a perfumed garden always growing,
with a warm breeze and a quiet sea
that's filled with love overflowing.

Granddad you are better than chocolate and s
happy and a ray of sunshine that brightens up m

I ♥ Grandad
By Ilana rose Hur
Who is proud to have a granddad so amazing like you.


Dear Grandma and Grandad,
You going to Peru!
Your the coolest BUT naddest grandparents to walk this earth!
The duchess white water rafting
Good luck!
I hope you have a great trip to peru and you have a great, fantastical experience, I will miss you very much!
5 weeks without the gre grandparents ever!
I love you two so much a wish you have a really interesting, enlightining trip. bring some food, lots ... Loking out love you lots, Ilana xx


Dear Grandad,
AUG 2012
As you sit here typing away,
I hope you think of me all day,
You are the greatest grandad I ever
with all the photo albums
I Love you with all my heart
and hate to be apart
hamie
XXX


My Darling Son,
I find it hard to believe that I have a son who is almost old enough to become a grandfather himself!! All I can say to this is "look at me and it becomes obvious that one can and does enjoy life at any age. Needless to say I am proud of you and always have been. You have achieved much, and if things don't always work out the way you want them to, that is life. I am proud that you are a Klay, I am proud that you are my son. Happy Birthday and many more in good health together
JANUARY 1987.—

It's always been a pleasure
To have a son like you,
To feel such pride in all you've done
And all you plan to do--
That's why this greeting
Feels much more
Than just a wish alone--
It's filled with all the special love
That will always be your own.

Happy Birthday—DARLING
MAY ALL YOUR WISHES COME TRUE!!
YOU WILL ALWAYS BE "SPECIAL" TO US!!
GOOD HEALTH -- EASY HEAD
ALL MY LOVE AS ALWAYS
YOURS MUMXX

Possibly over the years, Lynn and I treasure the many, many letters, cards etc we have got from our wonderful family and I appreciate it bores others, but it wouldn't be right not to include at least a couple of these here

Photo History

This really takes me back...my first car. 1947 Ford Anglia GWK 446 (I didn't have to check that -one never forgets the no. of one's first car). The car cost £60.00 and the insurance was £10.10..5d

My first driving licence in 1961 (aged 17)

Petrol coupons were issued as a precautionary measure during the Suez crisis but were never actually used

SCHEDULE

* The following Sections of the Policy are applicable dependent upon the Scope of Cover shown in the bottom right hand corner of the Schedule:—
Comprehensive—All Sections
Third Party Fire and Theft—Section 1 (with the exception of sub-sections (a) and (d) thereof) together with Sections 2, 3, 5 and 8
Third Party—Sections 2, 3, 5 and 8
Notwithstanding the above paragraph the Policy shall be subject to the limitations of each Section and to any endorsements attached to the Policy.

POLICY NUMBER: 1.EC. 100285
INDEX MARK & REGISTRATION NO. OF MOTOR CAR: GWK. 446
NAME OF INSURED: Ralph Michael Kley
PERIOD OF INSURANCE FROM: 11.a.m 22nd January 1962
TO: MIDNIGHT: 21st January 1963.
ADDRESS OF INSURED: 1 Borden Ave. Bush Hill Park, Enfield. Middx.
CARRYING ON THE BUSINESS OR PROFESSION OF: Catering Management Trainee.
AND NO OTHER FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS INSURANCE

Make of Motor Car	Rating H.P. or C.C.	Year of Manufacture	Type of Body and Seating Capacity including Driver	Insured's Estimate of Present Value	Index Mark and Registration No. of Motor Car
Ford	933	1947	Saloon 4 sts	£100	GWK. 446

First Premium	Annual Premium	Date Proposal Signed	Date of Signature of Policy	Cert. Form No. & Pol. Form No.	Scope of Cover *
£10.10.5.	£10.10.5.	20th Jan. 1962	7th Feb. 1962	1BZ PC11	Third Party Fire & Theft

WARRANTED USED ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH CLASS 1 OF THE "DESCRIPTION OF USE" CONTAINED IN THIS POLICY.

The National Insurance and Guarantee Corporation Limited

PRIVATE MOTOR CAR POLICY

B. A. TAYLOR (INSURANCE) LTD. INCORPORATED INSURANCE BROKERS 9/12, OHEAPSIDE, LONDON, E.C.2. TELEPHONE: CITY 1786 (4 LINES)

The Terms and Conditions of this Policy should be read carefully.

GS PC 11

DRIVING LICENCE

D.L.4B NO. 4B/ 323151
MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC ACTS, 1930 to 1956
DRIVING LICENCE

Mr Ralph Michael Kley
1 Borden Ave
Bush Hill Park
Enfield
Middx

is hereby licensed to drive MOTOR VEHICLES of GROUPS B and C, and Motor Cars and Reversible Tricycles of GROUP A only from

15th July 1961 until
14th July 1964 inclusive.

Fee of THE LOCAL TAXATION OFFICER
84, Uxbridge Road, London, W.13.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACTS, 1930 to 1956
MOTOR VEHICLES & ROAD TRAFFIC (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1930 to 1956
ROAD TRAFFIC ACTS (ISLE OF MAN) 1933 & 1939.
ROAD TRAFFIC (COMPULSORY THIRD-PARTY INSURANCE) (GUERNSEY) LAW, 1936.
MOTOR TRAFFIC (THIRD-PARTY INSURANCE) (JERSEY) LAW, 1948.

Certificate of Insurance

Certificate No.
1. Index Mark and Registration Number of Vehicle. 1.EC. 100285
2. Name of Policy Holder. GWK. 446 Ralph Michael Kley
3. Effective Date of the Commencement of Insurance for the purposes of the Acts. 11.a.m 22nd January 1962.
4. Date of Expiry of Insurance Midnight 1st January 1963.
5. Persons or Classes of Persons entitled to ve.* The Policyholder.

Provided that the person driving holds a licence to drive the Vehicle or is entitled and is not disqualified for holding or obtaining such a licence.

6. Limitations as to use.*
Use only for social, domestic and pleasure purposes and by the Policyholder in person in connection with his business or profession.

The Policy does not cover—
Use for hiring, racing, pace-making, speed-testing, reliability trial, commercial travelling, the carriage of goods or samples in connection with any trade or business or use by Commission Agents or Insurance Officials wholly or partly for business purposes or use for any purpose in connection with the Motor Trade.

*Limitations rendered inoperative by Sction 12 of the Road Traffic Act, 1934, and by Section 12 of the Road Traffic Act (Isle of Man), 1939, and Article 9 of the Motor Traffic (Third-Party Insurance) (Jers) Law, 1948, are not to be included under this heading.

Any termination or suspension of the Insurance to which the Corporation may on payment agree will operate only from the date of this Certificate.

PERICULO & DEFIDETUR SAPIENTIA

I hereby Certify that the Policy to which this Certificate relates is issued in accordance with the provisions of Part II of the Road Traffic Acts, 1930 to 1934, the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Acts (Northern Ireland), 1930 to 1934, the Road Traffic Acts (Isle of Man) 1933 and 1939, the Road Traffic (Compulsory Third-party Insurance) (Guernsey) Law, 1936, and the Motor Traffic (Third-party Insurance) (Jersey) Law, 1948.
The National Insurance and Guarantee Corporation, Ltd.
(Authorised Insurers)

Examined

General Manager.

AAA 642615 MONTH 4 ONE UNIT
AAA 642615 MONTH 3 ONE UNIT
AAA 642615 MONTH 2 ONE UNIT
AAA 642615 MONTH 1 ONE UNIT
NH 2975310 1ST MONTH NOT TRANSFERABLE Three N3 Units
NH 4973981 1ST MONTH NOT TRANSFERABLE Four N4 Units
NH 4973981 1ST MONTH NOT TRANSFERABLE Three N3 Units
AAA 642616 MONTH 3 ONE UNIT
AAA 642616 MONTH 2 ONE UNIT
AAA 642616 MONTH 1 ONE UNIT

SAD.... ..... SAD

Once again I am dwelling on some relatively unimportant thoughts but they seem to be 'on my mind' and when coming to bed intending to curl up with my book these thoughts prevent me from continuing until they are written down ..

..then perhaps there will still be time for a few pages of reading??

Don't expect words of wisdom, it's too late in the day ..anyway I'm not a wise being.

Enough of the intro …

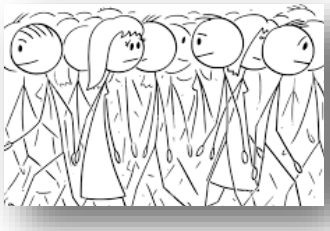
Sadness…

Yes that's my subject.

No specific reason, but maybe several elements combined to bring me down.

Admittedly, I am effected by the sun..when it shines, so do I.

I just love blue sky, sun overhead , birds singing, lovely views ..all these combine to give me such a boost, so much so that being miserable is out of the question.



"So, what's the problem??". I hear you ask.

Well, today was just the total opposite .

Piles of leaves everywhere as the result of the tail-end of some

UK-wide stormy weather and wet cold streets.

Anonymous people passing, cocooned in their hooded jackets avoiding eye contact, or on their phones and totally unaware of anyone around them

Driving at night with rain on the car windscreen and lights diffused through arcing wipers annoyingly requiring total concentration when driving.

Annoying driving by other road users all who seem intent on not acknowledging me when I courtesly stopped and flashed to let them through.

Arriving home, even those few steps from the warm car to the house seems to be a fight, through wind forcing an involuntarily chilly shiver and with sodden leaves underfoot.

I am totally aware these are normal evening conditions in London in December but I'm sorry I hate them with a vengeance.

Yes, it makes me sad.

It depresses me, probably just like I'm depressing you dear reader.

Get quickly into the house, turn on the lights, turn up the heating, put on the TV. All combine for a more hospitable environment, but this is not powerful enough to overshadow my deep-seated sadness.

I am aware it is only superficial false comfort.

I am not wishing to escape reality, it is just how these miserable winter times really depress me and I must admit I find these feelings so hard to shake off. I often wonder if warmer climes would expel this temporary depression.

I think not.

I guess it is the anticlimax that all of us endure before things get better. In my case it is the anticipation of the arrival of spring and summer nights.

Cont/d

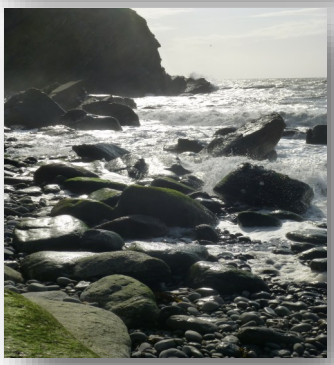
Of sitting outside...of laughter with family and friends and the sheer joy of being alive.

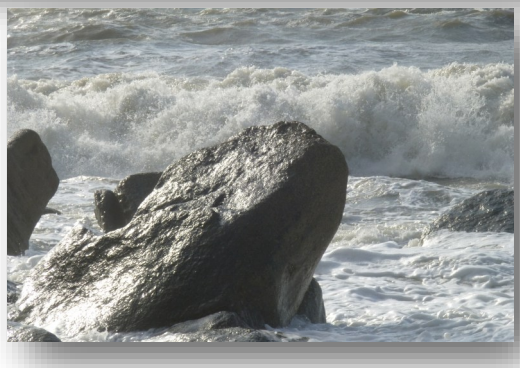
I yearn for walking in previously unknown areas with no roads or traffic ..with undulating views, of trees and fields and maybe distant water.

I love the feel of wind and summer breezes, of birdsong and those berries and colours in the hedgerows.

Of Lynn and I sitting on that stoney beach in North Devon in our 'special place' that is only accessible via the valley foot path.

As nightfall slowly descends we throw pebbles at the large boulders and laugh in delight at that hollow sound as they rico chet across the beach. Then the sound of the crashing waves silences us both as we replenish our memory banks and marvel at the wonder of nature and we realise how we are drawn to this and revel in an unspoken level of happiness and realisation that this is something unique to us both and is very special.





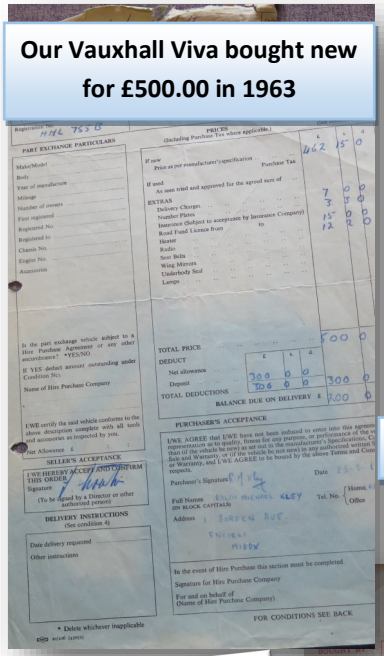
Walking with Lynn and seeing places that we both enjoy and add to our storehouse of memories stored ready to be found at a future time like this will lighten my low mood and make life worthwhile.

So maybe that's what I should do..forget the weather, curl up with my book, unlock those stored up memories, and feel better having written these words 'to get it off my chest'

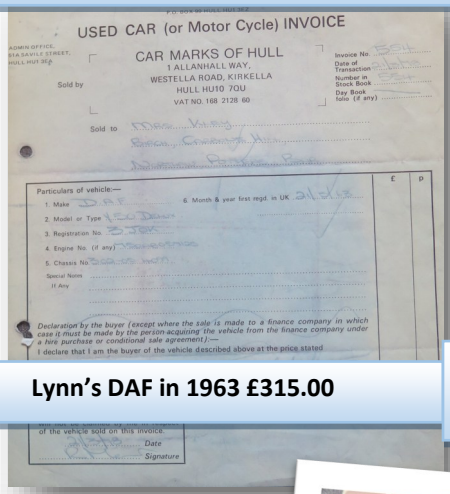
No, I'm not sad any more.

December 2024 and added to in January 2025

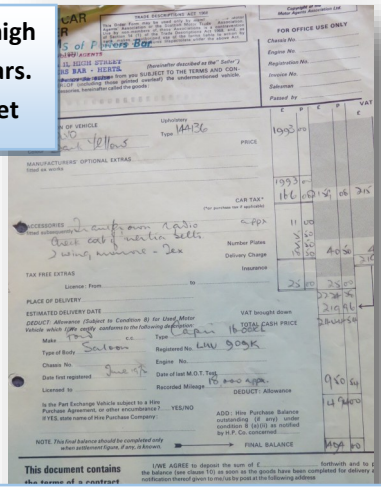
Fascinating how the prices of cars has reached such high figures now. In those days there was a list price for cars. Try and find a cost now..it is almost a well-kept secret



Our Vauxhall Viva bought new for £500.00 in 1963

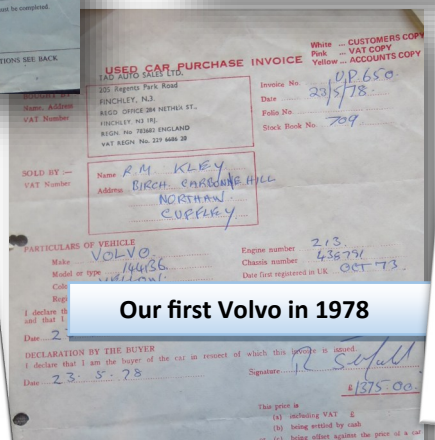


Lynn's DAF in 1963 £315.00

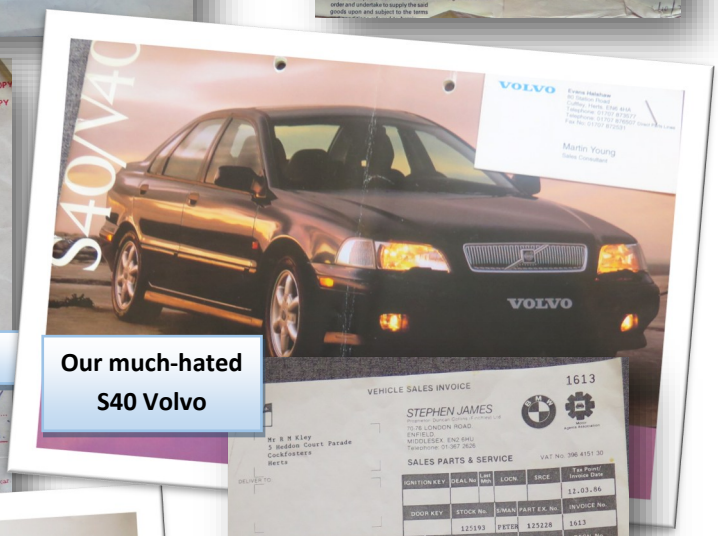


Our Ford Capri sold to buy our second Volvo for £2444.00 in 1973

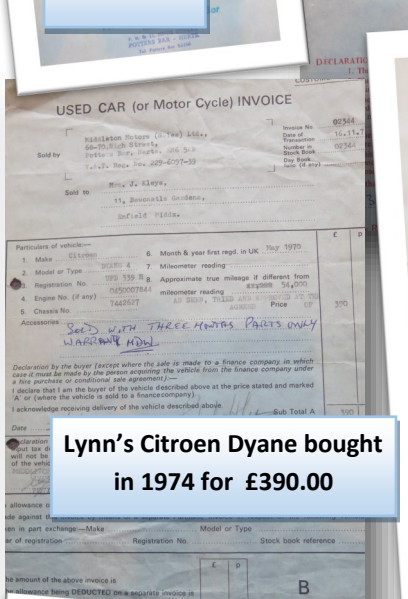
Volvo 244



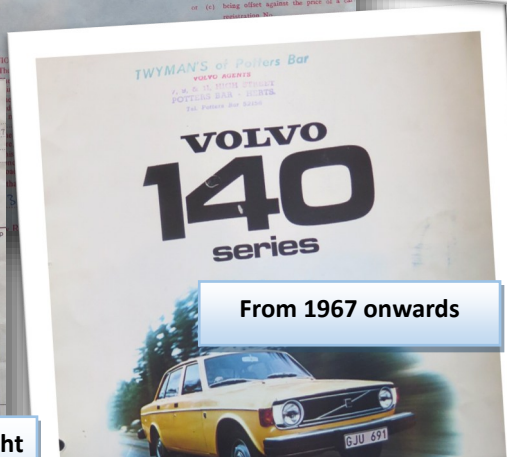
Our first Volvo in 1978



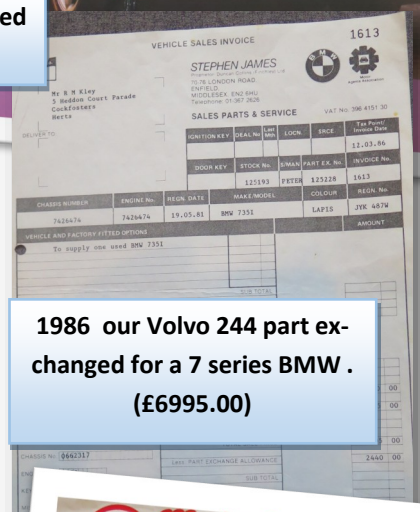
Our much-hated S40 Volvo



Lynn's Citroen Dyane bought in 1974 for £390.00



From 1967 onwards



1986 our Volvo 244 part exchanged for a 7 series BMW . (£6995.00)

During the fuel shortage we had to buy these mopeds in order to continue working.. They were so slow. It cost £124.00

The Rt. Hon. Michael Portillo, M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

10th August 1993

Dear Mr Kley

You wrote to Mr Portillo on 10th July enclosing a copy of the letter which you had sent to the planning department. As you know he has taken up your case with Councillor Adams as well as with Mr Martin Jewell, the Borough Planning officer in Enfield.

Mr Portillo is away on holiday this week but Councillor Adams has written to confirm that planning permission has been granted to you for your retail shop and eating establishment in Ashfield Parade.

I am enclosing the letter from Councillor Adams and I will let Mr Portillo have sight of this on his return. He will be very glad to know that you have permission to open your shop and will wish you every success with it.

Your sincerely

Secretary

Ralph Kley Esq
40 The Bourne
London N.14 6 QS

Southgate Leisure Centre news

Issue 1: October 2011

Southgate Leisure Centre set for exciting re-development this Autumn

We are delighted to be able to confirm the commencement of exciting redevelopment works at Southgate Leisure Centre which will transform this much loved local leisure facility into a modern, purpose built health and fitness leisure centre to rival any.

The works set to commence this month will comprise of:

- Large gym with brand new cardiovascular and resistance equipment
- Two new exercise studios maintaining the centres excellent existing programme and adding even more classes
- New reception desk and area for improved customer experience
- Brand new café for your post workout refreshments, or a place to relax while your friends or family use the facilities
- Childcare/meeting room facility
- New customer changing rooms
- External landscaping and reconfigured car parking

These redevelopments are scheduled for completion in Summer 2012.

Naturally, a redevelopment of this scale means there will be some temporary reconfiguration of the building to enable you to continue to use all the facilities we offer currently and a little more.

In the next few weeks we will be constructing:

- A new temporary entrance on the left hand side of the building as you approach, adjacent to the car park.
- A temporary gym in the facility basement area to contain some of the existing cardiovascular equipment and an area to accommodate spinning.
- A temporary studio situated to the left side of the building offering the same classes, as current programme. Westgrove School will still be available to support our existing class programme.
- Temporary changing areas offering joined up access to the pool, gym and studios.

The swimming pool and swim programme will be largely unaffected during the works.

Current membership & offers

We are pleased to announce that our existing members will continue on their current rate for direct debits and annual memberships and if you stay with us you will secure your 2011 rate until 31st December 2012.

Finally, all new memberships will enjoy NO ADMIN FEE until 31st December 2011.

For more information call 020 8882 7963
or visit www.enfield-leisure.com

In partnership with fusion

ENFIELD Council

The original Southgate Leisure Centre redevelopment commenced in 2011

STEPHEN TWIGG, MP
Labour Member of Parliament for Enfield Southgate

Tel: 020 7219 6554
Fax: 020 7219 0948

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mrs J Kley
40 The Bourne
London N14 6QS

4th June 2000

Dear Mrs Kley

I am pleased to confirm that I have now arranged for you and Mr Kley to join a tour of the House of Commons on 20th July. Please come to the House of Commons and arrive at the Victoria Tower at the House of Lords by the Embankment by 11.25 am where your guide will meet you. The charge will be £5 per head.

I have contacted the administrator who has arranged for you to climb Big Ben on the 2.30 pm tour. She has asked you to arrive at the St Stephens (front) entrance by 2.15 pm and bring this letter with you. The attendants will show you where to meet the tour. The administrator emphasised that the Big Ben tour starts promptly at 2.30 pm.

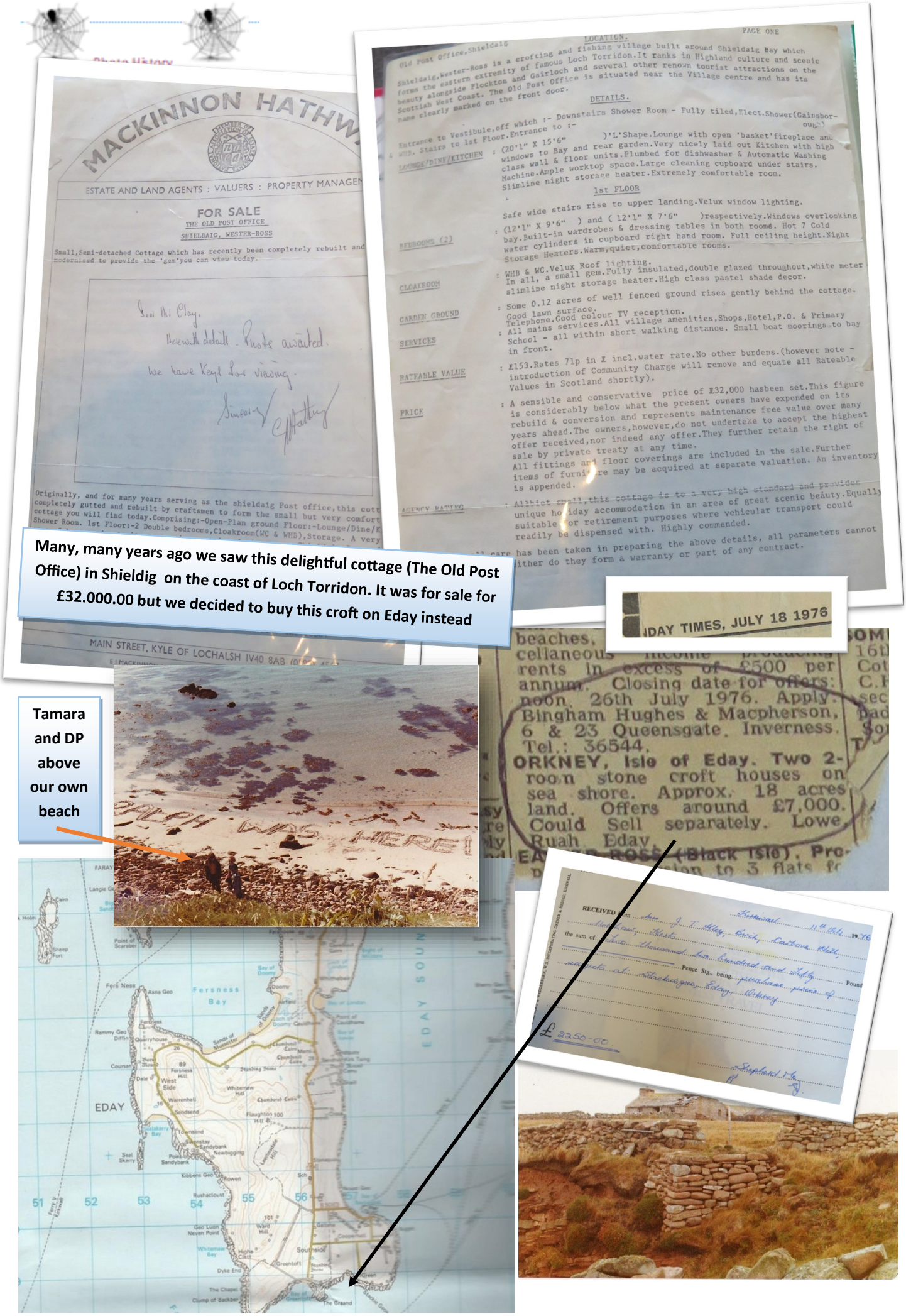
I do hope you enjoy your day at Westminster and, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Joan in my office on 0207 219 4963.

Best wishes

STEPHEN TWIGG, MP

Surgeries:

1st Friday in the month	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Bowes Road Library, Bowes Road, N11
2nd Saturday in the month	10.30am - 12.30pm	Merryhills Library, Enfield Road, EN2 7HL
3rd Monday in the month	10.30am - 12.30pm	Southgate Library, High Street, N14
Last Saturday in the month	10.30am - 12.30pm	Palmers Green Library, Broomfield Lane, N13



MACKINNON HATHW

ESTATE AND LAND AGENTS : VALUERS : PROPERTY MANAGEN

FOR SALE
THE OLD POST OFFICE
SHIELDAIG, WESTER-ROSS

Small,Semi-detached Cottage which has recently been completely rebuilt and modernized to provide the 'gem'you can view today.

Dear Mr Clay.
Herewith details. Quote awaited.
We have kept for viewing.
Sincerely

Originally, and for many years serving as the shieldaig Post office,this cott completely gutted and rebuilt by craftsmen to form the small but very comfort cottage you will find today.Comprising:-Open-Plan ground Floor:-Lounge/Dine/K Shower Room. 1st Floor:-2 Double bedrooms,Cloakroom(WC & WHB),Storage. A very

MAIN STREET, KYLE OF LOCHALSH IV40 8AB

PAGE ONE

Old Post Office,Shieldaig

LOCATION.

Shieldaig,Wester-Ross is a crofting and fishing village built around Shieldaig Bay which forms the eastern extremity of famous Loch Torridon.It ranks in Highland culture and scenic beauty alongside Plockton and Gairloch and several other renown tourist attractions on the Scottish West Coast. The Old Post Office is situated near the Village centre and has its name clearly marked on the front door.

DETAILS.

Entrance to Vestibule,off which :- Downstairs Shower Room - Fully tiled,Elect.Shower(Gainsborough) & WHB. Stairs to 1st Floor.Entrance to :-

LOUNGE/DINE/KITCHEN : (20'1" X 15'6")'L'Shape.Lounge with open 'basket'fireplace and windows to Bay and rear garden.Very nicely laid out Kitchen with high class wall & floor units.Plumbed for dishwasher & Automatic Washing Machine.Ample worktop space.Large cleaning cupboard under stairs. Slimline night storage heater.Extremely comfortable room.

1st FLOOR

Safe wide stairs rise to upper landing.Velux window lighting.

BEDROOMS (2) : (12'1" X 9'6") and (12'1" X 7'6")respectively.Windows overlooking bay.Built-in wardrobes & dressing tables in both rooms. Hot 7 Cold water cylinders in cupboard right hand room. Full ceiling height.Night Storage Heaters.Warm,quiet,comfortable rooms.

CLOAKROOM : WHB & WC.Velux Roof lighting. In all, a small gem.Fully insulated,double glazed throughout,white meter slimline night storage heater.High class pastel shade decor.

GARDEN GROUND : Some 0.12 acres of well fenced ground rises gently behind the cottage. Good lawn surface.

SERVICES : Telephone.Good colour TV reception. All mains services.All village amenities,Shops,Hotel,P.O. & Primary School - all within short walking distance. Small boat moorings to bay in front.

RATEABLE VALUE : £153.Rates 71p in £ incl.water rate.No other burdens.(however note - introduction of Community Charge will remove and equate all Rateable Values in Scotland shortly).

PRICE : A sensible and conservative price of £32,000 hasbeen set.This figure is considerably below what the present owners have expended on its rebuild & conversion and represents maintenance free value over many years ahead.The owners,however,do not undertake to accept the highest offer received,nor indeed any offer.They further retain the right of sale by private treaty at any time.
All fittings and floor coverings are included in the sale.Further items of furniture may be acquired at separate valuation. An inventory is appended.

AGENCY RATING : Albiet small,this cottage is to a very high standard and provides unique holiday accommodation in an area of great scenic beauty.Equally suitable for retirement purposes where vehicular transport could readily be dispensed with. Highly commended.

...care has been taken in preparing the above details, all parameters cannot ...either do they form a warranty or part of any contract.

Many, many years ago we saw this delightful cottage (The Old Post Office) in Shieldig on the coast of Loch Torridon. It was for sale for £32.000.00 but we decided to buy this croft on Eday instead

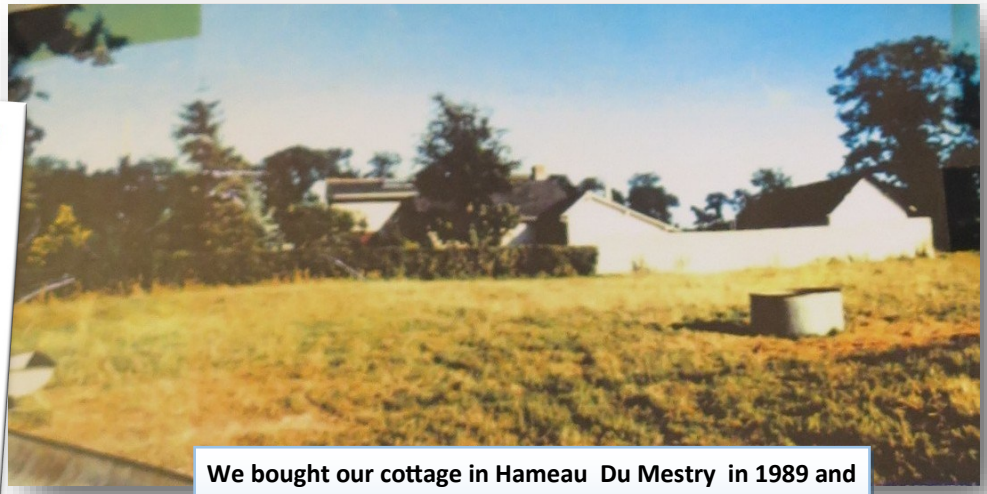
DAY TIMES, JULY 18 1976

beaches, cellaneous income producing rents in excess of £500 per annum. Closing date for offers: noon. 26th July 1976. Apply: Bingham Hughes & Macpherson, 6 & 23 Queensgate, Inverness. Tel.: 36544.
ORKNEY, Isle of Eday. Two 2-room stone croft houses on sea shore. Approx. 18 acres land. Offers around £7,000. Could Sell separately. Lowe, Ruah, Eday.
EAGLES ROST (Black Isle). Pro-...sion to 3 flats fr...

Tamara and DP above our own beach

RECEIVED from Mrs J. T. Kelly, Rock, Eathorne Hill, Kirkwall, Orkney the sum of Two thousand four hundred and fifty Pounds Pence Stg., being purchase price of Blackwater, Eday, Orkney

£2250-00



We bought our cottage in Hameau Du Mestry in 1989 and it was a delight. Beautiful countryside and easily reached from the ferries. We also rented it out for a while too.

MAP REF B2
PRICE GROUP 11
SLEEPS 4/6
SATURDAY START

Set in attractive countryside, this renovated cottage offers a good standard of comfort. The well-furnished rooms have retained their original beams and flag tiles. French windows lead from the living area to the well-kept garden and there is an open fireplace in the dining room for extra comfort on cold days. The two bedrooms are fully carpeted and the summer house in the garden accommodates two, possibly younger, people in mid and high seasons.

The surrounding area offers great opportunities for walkers and nature lovers and the countryside is particularly unspoilt. Imposing stone châteaux and manor houses will delight those who appreciate architecture and art, and with Bayeux nearby, there is no shortage of places to visit in this area.

ACCOMMODATION: all on ground floor: living/dining room; fitted kitchen with pantry and washbasin; utility room; 2 double bedrooms; modern shower room; separate WC. (1st floor: loft and playroom). Summer house in garden: twin beds with washbasin (available mid and high seasons only) •Central heating •Washing machine •Dishwasher •Garage •Garden furniture • Barbecue.

Ralph Kley
detached
France. The property is arranged as a
double bedrooms downstairs and a large attic room upstairs.
The garage is double length and has light and power.
The cottage is equidistant from the two local villages,
Le Molay Littry and Insigny sur la Mer, at 11 kilometres.
These offer restaurants, cafe's, and shopping facilities.
The town of Bayeaux, home of the famous Tapistry, is
slightly further, providing a busy high street with many
more restaurants and shops.
The nearest port to the cottage is Ouistraham near Caen with
sailings from the UK port of Portsmouth.
The property is ideal for those who would like a quick
escape to the quiet French countryside to a property which
although full of character has many modern benefits such as
gas fired central heating.

Entrance	Shutters opening to reveal main front semi glazed door leading to :-
Sitting Room	30'5 x 10'11 Two double windows to front and french windows opening to garden, both with louvre shutters. Beamed ceiling and flagstone floor. Attic door with drop down ladder leading to attic. Original working fire place, and storage cupboard. Two radiators and power points.
Kitchen	10'1 x 5'4 Fitted in country pine style with base and eye level units with work surfaces. Gas and electric cooker points with plumbing for dishwasher. Walk-in pantry to side. Double bowl sink unit with drainer and mixer taps. Fully tiled floors. Radiator and power points.
Guest Facilities	Door via louvre Fitted basin w cupboard below

-EXPEDITION-

- du 23 SEPTEMBRE 1989 -

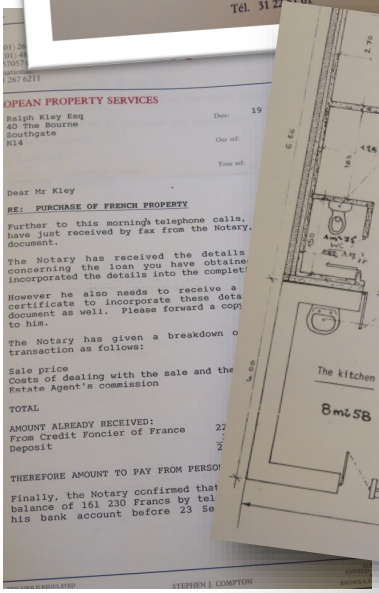
CONSERVATION DES HYPOTHEQUES
2 5 OCT. 1989

VENTE

par Monsieur et Madame Michel DUFLOT

A Monsieur et Madame Ralph KLEY

Roger MASSU - Philippe DAGORN
Notaires Associés
14710 BERNESQ
Tél. 31 27 51 01



OPEAN PROPERTY SERVICES

Ralph Kley Esq
40 The Bourne
Southgate
N14

Date: 19
Our ref:
Your ref:

Dear Mr Kley

RE: PURCHASE OF FRENCH PROPERTY

Further to this morning's telephone calls, have just received by fax from the Notary, document.

The Notary has received the details concerning the loan you have obtaine incorporated the details into the complet

However he also needs to receive a certificate to incorporate these deta document as well. Please forward a copy to him.

The Notary has given a breakdown o transaction as follows:

Sale price
Costs of dealing with the sale and the
Estate Agent's commission

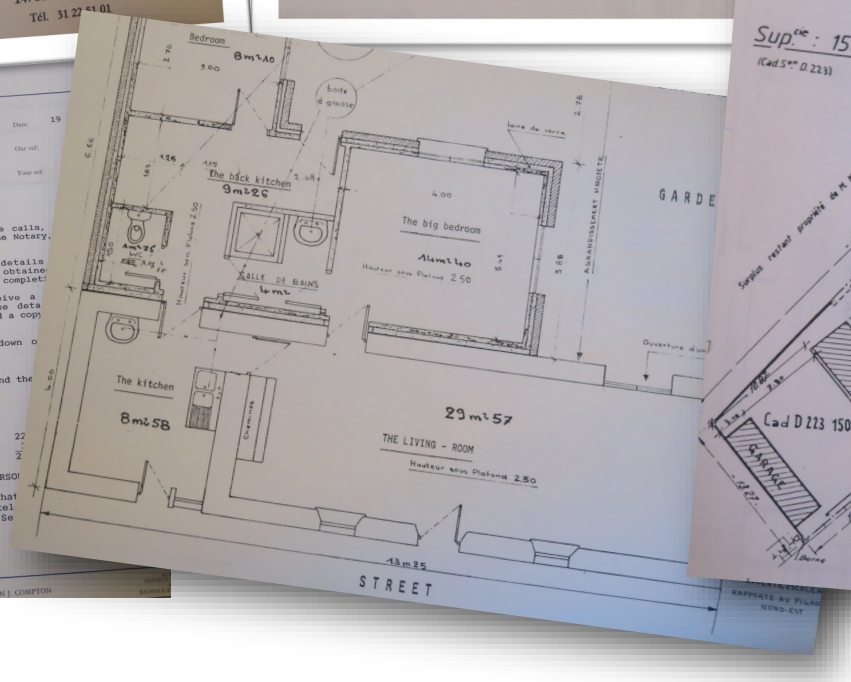
TOTAL

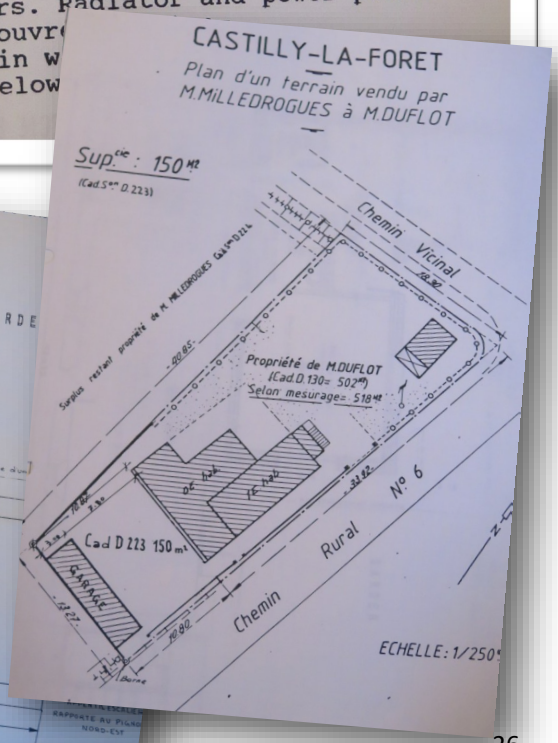
AMOUNT ALREADY RECEIVED:
From Credit Foncier of France 22
Deposit 2

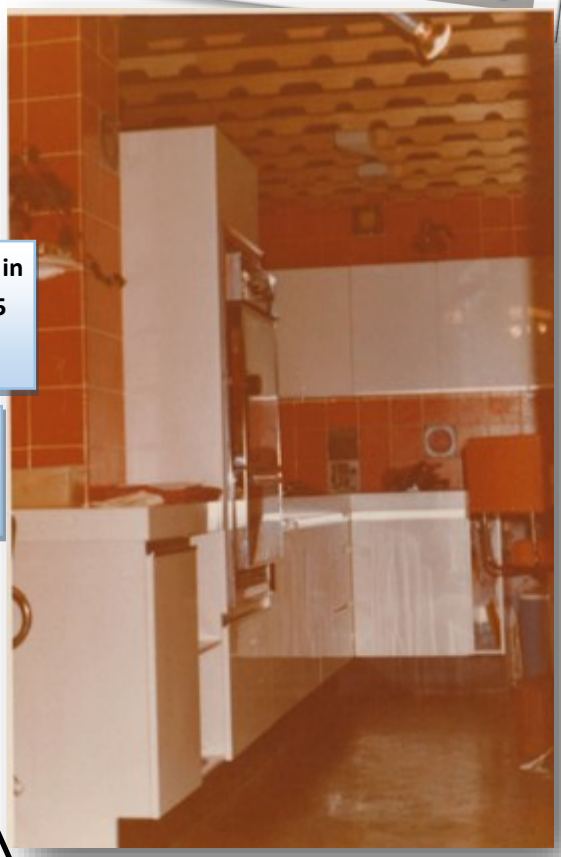
THEREFORE AMOUNT TO PAY FROM PERSO

Finally, the Notary confirmed that balance of 161 230 Francs by tel his bank account before 23 Se

STEPHEN J. COMPTON





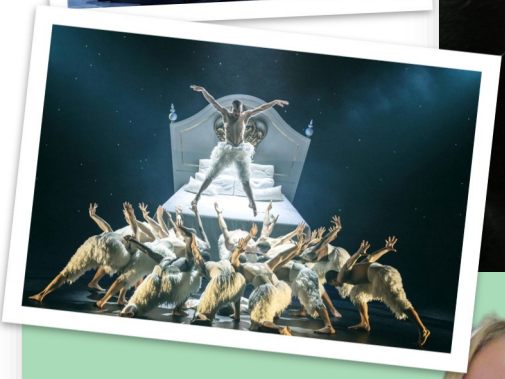


After modernising our home in Oakwood we sold it in 1975 and moved to Northaw

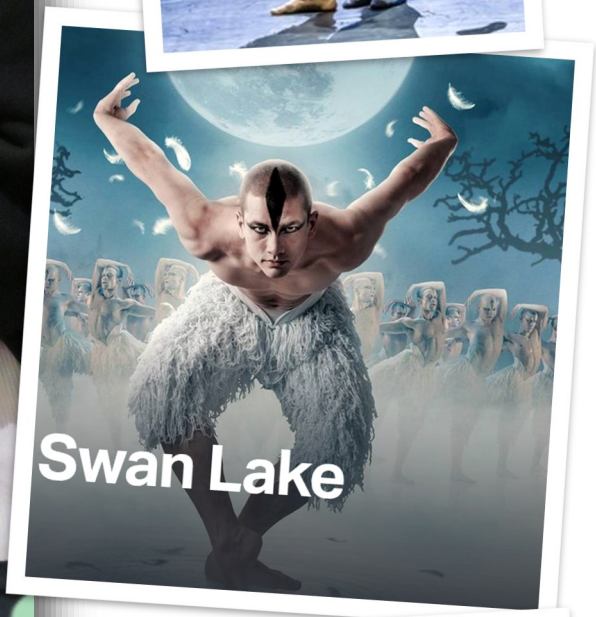
Our shower had swing saloon-style doors..not totally sensible on reflection

Our kitchen had a raised breakfast bar and was orange and white

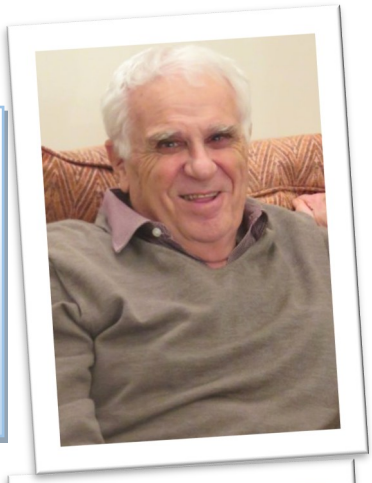
Together with Stuart & Jenny Fox (our neighbours) we had a memorable party where we took down the dividing fence. Police had complaints about the disco noise from around the locality..The joys of being young I guess)

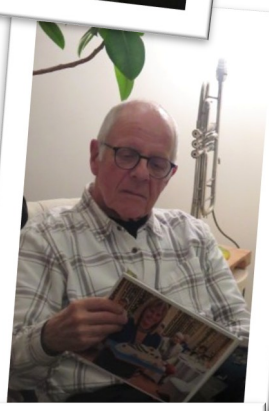


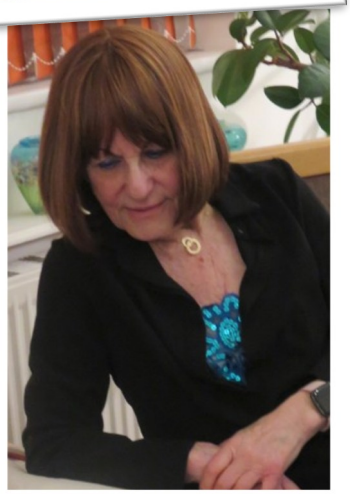
A regular annual 'outing' for Lynn, myself and The Larn is to enjoy one of Mathew Bourne's productions at Sadler's Wells and this production Swan Lake was brilliant



Ivor and Judy had an informal buffet party in early January and, as always, it was a great fun afternoon







Another very varied Volume but as I get older I find I have many eclectic views and attitudes and as I go through life this is, to me anyway, a really good way of expressing myself. I hope that you, dear reader, find something of interest and maybe even continue reading future volumes. This is Volume #182 and unless I become prematurely gaga I hope to continue for a while yet